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The Chat

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THE CHAT

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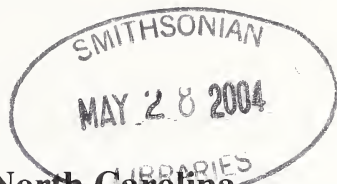
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Cover: This Black-headed Grosbeak was seen by many birders at the home of Shirley and David Remaley in Elizabeth City, NC. See page 3. Photo by Will Cook.



2003 Annual Report of the North Carolina Bird Records Committee

**Harry E. LeGrand, Jr.¹, Chairman, Keith E. Camburn,
Samuel Cooper, Richard J. Davis, Eric V. Dean,
Wayne K. Forsythe, Russell L. Tyndall**

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This report enumerates the decisions of the Carolina Bird Club's North Carolina Bird Records Committee during 2003. During the past year, Russ Tyndall was added to the Committee, replacing Susan Campbell. Committee voting information is referenced in parentheses (i.e., year report received, reference number).

Accepted as Valid

The reported identification is judged to be accurate, and the bird is judged to be of wild origin. Photographs and/or written descriptions of all accepted records have been deposited in the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

Ross's Goose (*Chen rossii*) (03-02). Two were seen from 22 to 25 January 2003 along Hooper Lane in Henderson County. Wayne Forsythe and others observed the geese, and the Committee accepted details provided by Forsythe. The species is already on the Official List, and this is the second mountain record.

Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*) (03-01). One was seen on 14 and 15 December 2002 by Tim Lewis and several other birders at Lake Julian, Buncombe County. The Committee accepted a description provided by Lewis. This is the first record for the mountain region. The species is already on the Official List, with this being the fourth record accepted by the Committee. There are about 10 other published reports for the species that have not been reviewed by the Committee.

Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) (03-09). Ricky Davis and several others observed one in the surf at Cape Hatteras Point, Dare County, on 15 March 2003, and it was seen on 19 March at nearby Hatteras by several other birders. The Committee accepted written details provided by Davis, and as this is a first record for the state, the species is placed on the Provisional List. However, the Committee did not accept still photos from a video taken by Derb Carter, as the photos were not definitive enough for Committee members to rule out the similar Western Grebe or a possible hybrid. Acceptance of photos would have elevated the species to the Official List. Because a video exists of the grebe, the Committee hopes to review it in 2004 to determine if it provides the necessary documentation to elevate the species to the Official List.

Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) (03-14). A sick bird was found on the beach at Ocracoke, Hyde County, on 11 May 2003. The Committee accepted a photo of the bird, in a cage, taken by Elizabeth Hanrahan. The species is already on the Official List, and there are now close to a dozen state records.

Brown Booby (03-21). Another sick bird was found on the beach at Emerald Isle, Carteret County, on 30 July 2002. The Committee accepted a photo taken by Elizabeth Hanrahan. Both of these Brown Boobies failed to survive, and they are now specimens at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences (John Gerwin, pers. comm.).

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) (03-15). An adult was seen at Lake Junaluska, Haywood County, from 31 May to early June 2003 by several birders. The Committee accepted written details submitted by Beth Brinson. This is the third known record for the mountain region, though it is the first to be reviewed and accepted by the Committee.

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) (03-11). An immature was seen from 23 to 28 March 2003 at Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in Dare County. The Committee accepted a written description from the initial observer, Mike Tove. The species is already on the Official List; this is the sixth accepted record for the state.

Thick-billed Murre (*Uria lomvia*) (03-06). One in winter plumage was seen in the surf at Fort Macon State Park, Carteret County, from 10 to 16 March 2003. The Committee accepted a description from Stuart Pimm, the initial observer, and photos taken by Will Cook and Harry Sell. The species is already on the Official List, and this is at least the eighth state record; however, this is one of the few that has been seen by a large number of birders and documented at close range.

Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*) (03-05). One in transition (winter changing to breeding) plumage was seen by Scott Baron in the surf at Kill Devil Hills, Dare County, on 15 February 2003. The Committee accepted his written description and sketch. This is the second accepted state record, both from the immediate coast (as would be expected). However, because both are sight records only, the species remains on the Provisional List.

Long-billed Murrelet (*Brachyramphus perdix*) (03-07). One in winter plumage was seen in the surf at Atlantic Beach, Carteret County, on 15 December 2002 by Eric Dean, Sharon Funderburk, and Tom Wade. The Committee accepted Dean's sketch and written description. Surprisingly, this is the second state record. The other record was from an inland site (Jordan Lake). However, as neither has been accompanied by photograph, nor is there a specimen, the species remains on the Provisional List.

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) (03-16). One was seen at a feeder in Newland, Avery County, from 6 to 11 October 2003; it was identified by Wayne Forsythe and Keith Camburn on 11 October. The Committee accepted a written description and photos provided by Forsythe. This is surprisingly the third state record, all from the mountain region in fall. As one of these was documented with a photograph, the species is already on the Official List.

Black-chinned Hummingbird (*Archilochus alexandri*) (03-20). An adult male was seen by Jeff Lewis at his feeder in Manteo, Dare County, on 27 March 2003. The species is already on the Official List, with now at least 10 records, but this is one of the few birds in adult male plumage.

Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*) (03-10). An immature male spent the period from 19 January to 29 March 2003 at Elayne Kodroff's feeders in Manteo, Dare County. It was seen by dozens of birders and was banded by Susan Campbell. The Committee accepted photos of the bird in the hand, taken by Campbell. This is the first state record, and acceptance of the photos places the species on the Official List.

Northern Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*) (03-17). One, apparently an adult female, was found by Dick Blee at Connestee Falls (community), Transylvania County, on 14 October 2003. The Committee accepted a written description and photographs provided by Wayne Forsythe. The species is already on the Official List; this is the fourth accepted state record, the second from the mountains. All state records are from the fall season, with the others being from the immediate coast.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (03-04). An immature male visited the feeders of Shirley Remaley in Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, from 6 February to 22 April 2003. It was seen by dozens of birders during that period. The Committee accepted Remaley's written description and photos taken by Will Cook. The species is already on the Official List, and the state now has approximately 10 records.

Unaccepted Sighting

The bird is judged to be a species other than that reported, or the bird is insufficiently documented to identification of the species reported.

European Storm-Petrel (*Hydrobates pelagicus*) (03-18). A storm-petrel photographed on 27 May 2003 from the Gulf Stream east of Cape Hatteras by Brian Patteson was circulated for comments on his website. This bird was reported as a "mystery storm-petrel" on the website, though he asked birders to submit comments on whether the bird might be a European Storm-Petrel, as a distinct white stripe is visible under one of the wings. There was no submission of the photo/report to the Committee. However, as many outside reviewers commented favorably (and some unfavorably and others with uncertainty) on the website for European Storm-Petrel, and as the photo and some details were subsequently mentioned in *North American Birds* (57:334), the Committee Chair felt that a vote was needed by the Committee. Most members did not accept the photo as documenting this species, which has been conclusively documented from the western Atlantic only once, from Nova Scotia, in 1970 (American Birding Association 2002). Also, most members felt that the photo angle was inconclusive to positively document the report. In addition, there is no indication that any birders on board the boat noticed an unusual storm-petrel at the time; the photo was not viewed or studied until a few months after the trip was taken.

Brown Booby (03-13). A report of four flying together over the surf in Dare County in May 2003 was not accepted. The Committee felt that the observation period—just a few seconds—was too brief; and the fact that Northern Gannets (*Morus bassanus*), particularly immature birds, are commonly seen flying along beaches and over the inshore ocean throughout May, led most to feel that gannets were not convincingly eliminated.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (03-03). One reported from Wake County in October 2002 was not accepted. Several field marks were not reported, and other parts of the description do not seem to be consistent with Bell's Vireo. This is a very difficult species to identify, especially if not singing or calling, and no vocalizations were heard. The species remains on the Provisional List, with one state record.

Black-throated Gray Warbler (*Dendroica nigrescens*) (03-08). One was reported from Mecklenburg County in December 2002. Though the report may well have been correct, there were only very sketchy details that lacked a description. The species is already on the Official List, with four accepted sight records. However, there is still no specimen or photograph to provide tangible documentation.

Unresolved

Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*) (03-19). One or two, in winter plumage, seen in the surf at several places along the Dare County coast in July 2003, and briefly described with at least four sets of details, were not accepted but received enough acceptance votes for a "Send for Outside Review" verdict. A few Committee members felt that the descriptions did not completely rule out other loon species. The report will be sent to several outside experts, with a second vote to be conducted later.

Swainson's Hawk (03-12). One observed near Chapel Hill in Orange County in April 2003 was not accepted but received enough acceptance votes for a "Send for Outside Review" verdict. Several members felt that because the bird was seen from a moving vehicle and the observer had no binoculars with him, the report (of an adult, light-morph bird) left some room for doubt. The report will be sent to several outside experts, with a second vote to be conducted later.

Discussion

The review of reports by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee for 2003 resulted in adding two species to the state's Accepted List. Allen's Hummingbird was added directly to the Official List, and Clark's Grebe was added to the Provisional List (and will be added to the Official List if the video is accepted). The current Official List is now 440 species, and the Provisional List is now 15 species, for a total of 455 species on the state's Accepted List. The Committee will conduct second votes on the Pacific Loon and Swainson's Hawk reports; and potential new-to-the-state reports expected to be reviewed are Gray Flycatcher (*Empidonax wrightii*) and

Slaty-backed Gull (*Larus schistisagus*). A review of a 2003 record of Barnacle Goose (*Chen leucopsis*) is anticipated, to determine if the species should be added to the Official List or if this and previous sightings should be retained as Unaccepted Origin.

Acknowledgments

In addition to the many people named above who provided written material and photographs for the Committee to review, we thank Russ Tyndall for placing a number of the photographs on the Carolina Bird Club's website for Committee review.

Literature Cited

American Birding Association. 2002. ABA checklist: Birds of the continental United States and Canada, sixth edition. American Birding Association.

2003 Annual Report of the South Carolina Bird Records Committee

**Donna Slyce¹, Chair, Gifford Beaton, Jr., Lex Glover,
Tim Kalbach, Taylor Piephoff, Will Post, Steve Wagner**

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In 2003, the South Carolina Bird Records Committee completed action on 15 records. Of these, seven were accepted and six were not accepted. Two reports were withdrawn from consideration at the requests of the reporters after circulation to and voting by the committee. Among the accepted reports was one record that added a new species to the State List in the Definitive category. A well-written report of a Buff-bellied Hummingbird accompanied by photographs added this species to the State List.

The current State List stands at 448 species, including 16 Provisional II species and 13 Hypothetical species. The most recent revision of the State List follows this article and can also be found online at <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org> by following the links for the state records committee. The state list available online includes review categories in addition to list categories for each species.

Committee membership did not change in 2003.

Also notable at the end of 2003 is that the South Carolina Bird Records Committee is at last reviewing records in the year in which they are submitted. The last packet of records sent out in 2003 and still under consideration by the committee at this writing contained records submitted in 2003.

Committee activity is reviewed below.

Accepted Reports

Snow Goose (*Chen caerulescens*) (05-02-03)—Three individuals of this species were documented by Steve Wagner, county coordinator for Oconee County, while conducting the Oconee County North American Migration Count on 11 May 2002. Due to the out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) (12-00-16)—A single bird found on the Long Cane Christmas Bird Count held on 23 December 2000 was documented in a written report by Steve Wagner. Due to the out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

Solitary Sandpiper (12-01-11)—Another single bird of this species found on the Long Cane Christmas Bird Count held on 22 December 2001 was written up by the compiler of the count, Steve Wagner. Again, due to the

out-of-season date of the occurrence of the bird, the record was circulated to the committee. The report was accepted.

Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) (12-00-15)—A report of a bird observed at Kiawah Island on 31 December 2000 was written by Roger Taylor of Ontario, Canada. The concise report detailed several diagnostic field marks and was accepted by the committee.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia yucatanensis*) (12-01-09)—A bird that appeared for a few days at the feeder of Cathleen Lee in the Lake Murray area of Lexington County was banded and written up by Bill Hilton, Jr. The bird was well documented with excellent photographs and a concise listing of diagnostic field marks in the write-up. The report was accepted by the committee. This is a first state record for the species and places the species on the State List in the Definitive category because of the accompanying photographs.

Calliope Hummingbird (*Stellula calliope*) (12-01-10) — An overwintering individual of this species was banded and documented by Bill Hilton, Jr., again with excellent photographs and a concise write-up. The bird was visiting a feeder maintained by Baine Carruthers in Bethany, a town north of York and close to the North Carolina state line. The report was accepted by the committee.

Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii*) (04-00-11)—A thorough report of a Bell's Vireo seen in April of 2000 at Caw Caw Interpretive Center in Charleston County and written up by Sharon Brown and Donna Slyce was accepted.

Non-accepted Reports

Say's Phoebe (*Sayornis saya*) (05-01-06)—A sketchy report of two individuals of this species was not accepted by the committee due to insufficient details in the written description to distinguish the reported species from closely allied and similar species.

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) (10-01-07)—A report of a bird seen and documented as this species was not accepted due to a divergence in the submitted description from standard descriptions of the species and the late date of occurrence for the reported species.

Reports Sent For Outside Review

Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) (01-01-01)—Because the report did not rule out a similar species convincingly and there was a divergence in the written description from standard descriptions of the species, this report occasioned a split decision from the committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

Ruff (*Philomachus pugnax*) (10-00-06)—A lack of convincing detail in the written description in this report led to a split vote from the committee and will be sent to outside review. The report will then be resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

Green-tailed Towhee (*Pipilo chlorurus*) (11-01-08)–A sketchy report of an individual of this species occasioned a split vote from the Committee. The report will be sent for outside review and then resubmitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

Black-headed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*) (09-01-05)–Imprecise details in the description of the plumage of this bird led the committee to split the votes on this report. The report will be sent for outside review and then re-submitted to the Committee for reconsideration.

Withdrawn Reports

Two reports were withdrawn by the submitters after consideration by the committee.

The South Carolina Bird List

South Carolina Bird Records Committee

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna autumnalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Fulvous Whistling-Duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Greater White-fronted Goose	<i>Anser albifrons</i>	Y	Definitive
Snow Goose	<i>Chen caerulescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Ross's Goose	<i>Chen rossii</i>	Y	Definitive
Canada Goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Brant	<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Y	Definitive
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>	Y	Provisional II
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Y	Provisional II
Trumpeter Swan	<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Y	Provisional II
Tundra Swan	<i>Cygnus columbianus</i>	Y	Definitive
Wood Duck	<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Y	Definitive
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Y	Definitive
Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	Y	Definitive
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Y	Definitive
American Black Duck	<i>Anas rubripes</i>	Y	Definitive
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Y	Definitive
Mottled Duck	<i>Anas fulvigula</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue-winged Teal	<i>Anas discors</i>	Y	Definitive
Cinnamon Teal	<i>Anas cyanoptera</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Pintail	<i>Anas acuta</i>	Y	Definitive
Green-winged Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Y	Definitive
Canvasback	<i>Aythya valisineria</i>	Y	Definitive
Redhead	<i>Aythya americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Ring-necked Duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Y	Definitive
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Y	Definitive
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Y	Definitive
King Eider	<i>Somateria spectabilis</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Eider	<i>Somateria mollissima</i>	Y	Definitive
Harlequin Duck	<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Y	Provisional I
Surf Scoter	<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Y	Definitive
White-winged Scoter	<i>Melanitta fusca</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Scoter	<i>Melanitta nigra</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-tailed Duck	<i>Clangula hyemalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Goldeneye	<i>Bucephala clangula</i>	Y	Definitive
Hooded Merganser	<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-breasted Merganser	<i>Mergus serrator</i>	Y	Definitive
Ruddy Duck	<i>Oxyura jamaicensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Ring-necked Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Y	Provisional II
Ruffed Grouse	<i>Bonasa umbellus</i>	Y	Definitive
Wild Turkey	<i>Meleagris gallopavo</i>	Y	Definitive

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Northern Bobwhite	<i>Colinus virginianus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-throated Loon	<i>Gavia stellata</i>	Y	Definitive
Pacific Loon	<i>Gavia pacifica</i>	Y	Provisional I
Common Loon	<i>Gavia immer</i>	Y	Definitive
Pied-billed Grebe	<i>Podilymbus podiceps</i>	Y	Definitive
Horned Grebe	<i>Podiceps auritus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-necked Grebe	<i>Podiceps grisegena</i>	Y	Definitive
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	Y	Definitive
Western Grebe	<i>Aechmophorus occidentalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Fulmar	<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-capped Petrel	<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	Y	Definitive
Cory's Shearwater	<i>Calonectris diomedea</i>	Y	Definitive
Greater Shearwater	<i>Puffinus gravis</i>	Y	Definitive
Sooty Shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Y	Definitive
Manx Shearwater	<i>Puffinus puffinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Audubon's Shearwater	<i>Puffinus lherminieri</i>	Y	Definitive
Little Shearwater	<i>Puffinus assimilis</i>	Y	Definitive
Wilson's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanites oceanicus</i>	Y	Definitive
Leach's Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma leucorhoa</i>	Y	Definitive
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel	<i>Oceanodroma castro</i>	Y	Definitive
White-tailed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon lepturus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-billed Tropicbird	<i>Phaethon aethereus</i>	Y	Definitive
Masked Booby	<i>Sula dactylatra</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-footed Booby	<i>Sula sula</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Gannet	<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Y	Definitive
American White Pelican	<i>Pelecanus erythrorhynchos</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	Y	Definitive
Great Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Y	Definitive
Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>	Y	Definitive
Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Y	Definitive
American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Y	Definitive
Least Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Y	Definitive
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Y	Definitive
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	Y	Definitive
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Y	Definitive
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>	Y	Definitive
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Reddish Egret	<i>Egretta rufescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Y	Definitive
Green Heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nyctanassa violacea</i>	Y	Definitive
White Ibis	<i>Eudocimus albus</i>	Y	Definitive
Scarlet Ibis	<i>Eudocimus ruber</i>	Y	Provisional II
Glossy Ibis	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>	Y	Definitive

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Roseate Spoonbill	<i>Platalea ajaja</i>	Y	Definitive
Wood Stork	<i>Mycteria americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Vulture	<i>Coragyps atratus</i>	Y	Definitive
Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Y	Definitive
Greater Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Chilean Flamingo	<i>Phoenicopterus chilensis</i>	N	Provisional II
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Y	Definitive
Swallow-tailed Kite	<i>Elanoides forficatus</i>	Y	Definitive
White-tailed Kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Y	Definitive
Mississippi Kite	<i>Ictinia mississippiensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Y	Definitive
Sharp-shinned Hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Y	Provisional I
Red-shouldered Hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Broad-winged Hawk	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>	Y	Definitive
Short-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Y	Provisional I
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Rough-legged Hawk	<i>Buteo lagopus</i>	Y	Provisional I
Golden Eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Y	Definitive
Crested Caracara	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>	Y	Provisional II
American Kestrel	<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Y	Definitive
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	Y	Definitive
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Prairie Falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Y	Provisional II
Yellow Rail	<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Clapper Rail	<i>Rallus longirostris</i>	Y	Definitive
King Rail	<i>Rallus elegans</i>	Y	Definitive
Virginia Rail	<i>Rallus limicola</i>	Y	Definitive
Sora	<i>Porzana carolina</i>	Y	Definitive
Purple Gallinule	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Y	Definitive
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Caribbean Coot	<i>Fulica caribaea</i>	N	Hypothetical
Limpkin	<i>Aramus guarauna</i>	Y	Definitive
Sandhill Crane	<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Whooping Crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	Y	Provisional I
Black-bellied Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	Y	Definitive
American Golden-Plover	<i>Pluvialis dominica</i>	Y	Definitive
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Wilson's Plover	<i>Charadrius wilsonia</i>	Y	Definitive
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Piping Plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	Y	Definitive

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Y	Definitive
American Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus palliatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-necked Stilt	<i>Himantopus mexicanus</i>	Y	Definitive
American Avocet	<i>Recurvirostra americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Greater Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa melanoleuca</i>	Y	Definitive
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Y	Definitive
Spotted Redshank	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Y	Definitive
Willet	<i>Catoptrophorus semipalmatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularia</i>	Y	Definitive
Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartramia longicauda</i>	Y	Definitive
Eskimo Curlew	<i>Numenius borealis</i>	Y	Provisional I
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-tailed Godwit	<i>Limosa limosa</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Hudsonian Godwit	<i>Limosa haemastica</i>	Y	Definitive
Marbled Godwit	<i>Limosa fedoa</i>	Y	Definitive
Ruddy Turnstone	<i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Y	Definitive
Red Knot	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	Y	Definitive
Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Y	Definitive
Semipalmated Sandpiper	<i>Calidris pusilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-necked Stint	<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>	Y	Provisional I
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	Y	Definitive
White-rumped Sandpiper	<i>Calidris fuscicollis</i>	Y	Definitive
Baird's Sandpiper	<i>Calidris bairdii</i>	Y	Definitive
Pectoral Sandpiper	<i>Calidris melanotos</i>	Y	Definitive
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	<i>Calidris acuminata</i>	Y	Provisional I
Purple Sandpiper	<i>Calidris maritima</i>	Y	Definitive
Dunlin	<i>Calidris alpina</i>	Y	Definitive
Curlew Sandpiper	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	Y	Definitive
Stilt Sandpiper	<i>Calidris himantopus</i>	Y	Definitive
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	<i>Tryngites subruficollis</i>	Y	Definitive
Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Y	Definitive
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus scolopaceus</i>	Y	Definitive
Wilson's Snipe	<i>Gallinago delicata</i>	Y	Definitive
American Woodcock	<i>Scolopax minor</i>	Y	Definitive
Wilson's Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus tricolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-necked Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus lobatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red Phalarope	<i>Phalaropus fulicarius</i>	Y	Definitive
South Polar Skua	<i>Stercorarius maccormicki</i>	Y	Hypothetical
skua species		N	Definitive
Pomarine Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius pomarinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Parasitic Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius parasiticus</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-tailed Jaeger	<i>Stercorarius longicaudus</i>	Y	Provisional I
Laughing Gull	<i>Larus atricilla</i>	Y	Definitive

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Franklin's Gull	<i>Larus pipixcan</i>	Y	Definitive
Little Gull	<i>Larus minutus</i>	Y	Provisional I
Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Y	Definitive
Bonaparte's Gull	<i>Larus philadelphia</i>	Y	Definitive
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Iceland Gull	<i>Larus glaucoides</i>	Y	Definitive
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>	Y	Definitive
Glaucous Gull	<i>Larus hyperboreus</i>	Y	Definitive
Great Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Sabine's Gull	<i>Xema sabini</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-legged Kittiwake	<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Y	Definitive
Gull-billed Tern	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Y	Definitive
Caspian Tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Y	Definitive
Royal Tern	<i>Sterna maxima</i>	Y	Definitive
Sandwich Tern	<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	Y	Provisional I
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	Y	Definitive
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	Y	Provisional I
Forster's Tern	<i>Sterna forsteri</i>	Y	Definitive
Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Y	Definitive
Bridled Tern	<i>Sterna anaethetus</i>	Y	Definitive
Sooty Tern	<i>Sterna fuscata</i>	Y	Definitive
White-winged Tern	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Tern	<i>Chlidonias niger</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown Noddy	<i>Anous stolidus</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Y	Definitive
Dovekie	<i>Alle alle</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Murre	<i>Uria aalge</i>	Y	Provisional I
Thick-billed Murre	<i>Uria lomvia</i>	Y	Definitive
Razorbill	<i>Alca torda</i>	Y	Definitive
Black Guillemot	<i>Cephus grylle</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-billed Murrelet	<i>Brachyramphus perdix</i>	Y	Definitive
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Y	Definitive
Band-tailed Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>	Y	Definitive
Ringed Turtle-Dove	<i>Streptopelia risoria</i>	N	Provisional II
Eurasian Collared-Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Y	Definitive
White-winged Dove	<i>Zenaida asiatica</i>	Y	Definitive
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Y	Definitive
Passenger Pigeon	<i>Ectopistes migratorius</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Ground-Dove	<i>Columbina passerina</i>	Y	Definitive
Budgerigar	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>	Y	Provisional II
Monk Parakeet	<i>Myiopsitta monachus</i>	Y	Provisional II
Carolina Parakeet	<i>Conuropsis carolinensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Green Parakeet	<i>Aratinga holochlora</i>	Y	Provisional II
Black-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus erythrophthalmus</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Y	Definitive

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Smooth-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga ani</i>	Y	Provisional I
Groove-billed Ani	<i>Crotophaga sulcirostris</i>	Y	Definitive
Barn Owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>	Y	Definitive
Eastern Screech-Owl	<i>Megascops asio</i>	Y	Definitive
Great Horned Owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>	Y	Definitive
Snowy Owl	<i>Bubo scandiacus</i>	Y	Definitive
Burrowing Owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Y	Definitive
Barred Owl	<i>Strix varia</i>	Y	Definitive
Long-eared Owl	<i>Asio otus</i>	Y	Definitive
Short-eared Owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Saw-whet Owl	<i>Aegolius acadicus</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Nighthawk	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Y	Definitive
Chuck-will's-widow	<i>Caprimulgus carolinensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Whip-poor-will	<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Y	Definitive
Chimney Swift	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Y	Definitive
Cuban Emerald	<i>Chlorostilbon ricordii</i>	N	Hypothetical
Broad-billed Hummingbird	<i>Cynanthus latirostris</i>	Y	Provisional I
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	<i>Amazilia yucatanensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue-throated Hummingbird	<i>Lampornis clemenciae</i>	Y	Provisional I
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus colubris</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	Y	Definitive
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	Y	Definitive
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Y	Definitive
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-headed Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes erythrocephalus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes carolinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	<i>Sphyrapicus varius</i>	Y	Definitive
Downy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	<i>Picoides borealis</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Flicker	<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Y	Definitive
Pileated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus pileatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Ivory-billed Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus principalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Y	Definitive
Eastern Wood-Pewee	<i>Contopus virens</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>	Y	Definitive
Acadian Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Alder Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax alnorum</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Y	Definitive
Least Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax minimus</i>	Y	Definitive
Eastern Phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>	Y	Definitive
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Y	Provisional I
Vermilion Flycatcher	<i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Great Crested Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>	Y	Definitive
Tropical/Couch's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii</i>	N	Hypothetical
Western Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus verticalis</i>	Y	Definitive

Common Name	Scientific name	ABA Valid	SC Category
Eastern Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>	Y	Definitive
Gray Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus dominicensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus forficatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>	Y	Definitive
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Y	Definitive
White-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo griseus</i>	Y	Definitive
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-throated Vireo	<i>Vireo flavifrons</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue-headed Vireo	<i>Vireo solitarius</i>	Y	Definitive
Warbling Vireo	<i>Vireo gilvus</i>	Y	Definitive
Philadelphia Vireo	<i>Vireo philadelphicus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-eyed Vireo	<i>Vireo olivaceus</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue Jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>	Y	Definitive
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	N	Provisional II
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Y	Definitive
Fish Crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	Y	Definitive
Horned Lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>	Y	Definitive
Purple Martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Y	Definitive
Tree Swallow	<i>Tachycineta bicolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	<i>Stelgidopteryx serripennis</i>	Y	Definitive
Bank Swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Y	Definitive
Cliff Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Y	Definitive
Cave Swallow	<i>Petrochelidon fulva</i>	Y	Definitive
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Y	Definitive
Carolina Chickadee	<i>Poecile carolinensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-capped Chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Tufted Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Red-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta canadensis</i>	Y	Definitive
White-breasted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown-headed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta pusilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown Creeper	<i>Certhia americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Carolina Wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>	Y	Definitive
Bewick's Wren	<i>Thryomanes bewickii</i>	Y	Definitive
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	Y	Definitive
Winter Wren	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Y	Definitive
Sedge Wren	<i>Cistothorus platensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Marsh Wren	<i>Cistothorus palustris</i>	Y	Definitive
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	Y	Definitive
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus calendula</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila caerulea</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Wheatear	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Y	Hypothetical
Eastern Bluebird	<i>Sialia sialis</i>	Y	Definitive
Townsend's Solitaire	<i>Myadestes townsendi</i>	Y	Provisional I
Veery	<i>Catharus fuscescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Gray-cheeked Thrush	<i>Catharus minimus</i>	Y	Definitive

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Bicknell's Thrush	<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Y	Definitive
Swainson's Thrush	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Hermit Thrush	<i>Catharus guttatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Wood Thrush	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>	Y	Definitive
American Robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	Y	Definitive
Varied Thrush	<i>Ixoreus naevius</i>	Y	Definitive
Gray Catbird	<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>	Y	Definitive
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Y	Definitive
White Wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Y	Definitive
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Sprague's Pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	Y	Definitive
Cedar Waxwing	<i>Bombycilla cedrorum</i>	Y	Definitive
Bachman's Warbler	<i>Vermivora bachmanii</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora pinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Golden-winged Warbler	<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Y	Definitive
Tennessee Warbler	<i>Vermivora peregrina</i>	Y	Definitive
Orange-crowned Warbler	<i>Vermivora celata</i>	Y	Definitive
Nashville Warbler	<i>Vermivora ruficapilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Parula	<i>Parula americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Y	Definitive
Chestnut-sided Warbler	<i>Dendroica pensylvanica</i>	Y	Definitive
Magnolia Warbler	<i>Dendroica magnolia</i>	Y	Definitive
Cape May Warbler	<i>Dendroica tigrina</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-throated Blue Warbler	<i>Dendroica caerulescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronata</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-throated Gray Warbler	<i>Dendroica nigrescens</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-throated Green Warbler	<i>Dendroica virens</i>	Y	Definitive
Blackburnian Warbler	<i>Dendroica fusca</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-throated Warbler	<i>Dendroica dominica</i>	Y	Definitive
Pine Warbler	<i>Dendroica pinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Kirtland's Warbler	<i>Dendroica kirtlandii</i>	Y	Definitive
Prairie Warbler	<i>Dendroica discolor</i>	Y	Definitive
Palm Warbler	<i>Dendroica palmarum</i>	Y	Definitive
Bay-breasted Warbler	<i>Dendroica castanea</i>	Y	Definitive
Blackpoll Warbler	<i>Dendroica striata</i>	Y	Definitive
Cerulean Warbler	<i>Dendroica cerulea</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-and-white Warbler	<i>Mniotilta varia</i>	Y	Definitive
American Redstart	<i>Setophaga ruticilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Prothonotary Warbler	<i>Protonotaria citrea</i>	Y	Definitive
Worm-eating Warbler	<i>Helmitheros vermivorus</i>	Y	Definitive
Swainson's Warbler	<i>Limnothlypis swainsonii</i>	Y	Definitive
Ovenbird	<i>Seiurus aurocapilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus noveboracensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Louisiana Waterthrush	<i>Seiurus motacilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Kentucky Warbler	<i>Oporornis formosus</i>	Y	Definitive

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Connecticut Warbler	<i>Oporornis agilis</i>	Y	Definitive
Mourning Warbler	<i>Oporornis philadelphia</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Y	Definitive
Hooded Warbler	<i>Wilsonia citrina</i>	Y	Definitive
Wilson's Warbler	<i>Wilsonia pusilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Canada Warbler	<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-breasted Chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Y	Definitive
Summer Tanager	<i>Piranga rubra</i>	Y	Definitive
Scarlet Tanager	<i>Piranga olivacea</i>	Y	Definitive
Western Tanager	<i>Piranga ludoviciana</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-crested Cardinal	<i>Paroaria coronata</i>	N	Provisional II
Green-tailed Towhee	<i>Pipilo chlorurus</i>	Y	Definitive
Spotted Towhee	<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Y	Definitive
Eastern Towhee	<i>Pipilo erythrophthalmus</i>	Y	Definitive
Bachman's Sparrow	<i>Aimophila aestivalis</i>	Y	Definitive
American Tree Sparrow	<i>Spizella arborea</i>	Y	Definitive
Chipping Sparrow	<i>Spizella passerina</i>	Y	Definitive
Clay-colored Sparrow	<i>Spizella pallida</i>	Y	Definitive
Field Sparrow	<i>Spizella pusilla</i>	Y	Definitive
Vesper Sparrow	<i>Pooecetes gramineus</i>	Y	Definitive
Lark Sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>	Y	Definitive
Lark Bunting	<i>Calamospiza melanocorys</i>	Y	Definitive
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Grasshopper Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	Y	Definitive
Henslow's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus henslowii</i>	Y	Definitive
Le Conte's Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus leconteii</i>	Y	Definitive
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i>	Y	Definitive
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i>	Y	Definitive
Seaside Sparrow	<i>Ammodramus maritimus</i>	Y	Definitive
Fox Sparrow	<i>Passerella iliaca</i>	Y	Definitive
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Y	Definitive
Lincoln's Sparrow	<i>Melospiza lincolnii</i>	Y	Definitive
Swamp Sparrow	<i>Melospiza georgiana</i>	Y	Definitive
White-throated Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>	Y	Definitive
Harris's Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia querula</i>	Y	Definitive
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	Y	Definitive
Golden-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia atricapilla</i>	Y	Provisional I
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Lapland Longspur	<i>Calcarius lapponicus</i>	Y	Definitive
Smith's Longspur	<i>Calcarius pictus</i>	Y	Definitive
Snow Bunting	<i>Plectrophenax nivalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Northern Cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>	Y	Definitive
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>	Y	Definitive
Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus melanocephalus</i>	Y	Definitive
Blue Grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>	Y	Definitive
Lazuli Bunting	<i>Passerina amoena</i>	Y	Definitive
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>	Y	Definitive

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Painted Bunting	<i>Passerina ciris</i>	Y	Definitive
Dickcissel	<i>Spiza americana</i>	Y	Definitive
Bobolink	<i>Dolichonyx oryzivorus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red-winged Blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Y	Definitive
Eastern Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella magna</i>	Y	Definitive
Western Meadowlark	<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Y	Definitive
Yellow-headed Blackbird	<i>Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus</i>	Y	Definitive
Rusty Blackbird	<i>Euphagus carolinus</i>	Y	Definitive
Brewer's Blackbird	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>	Y	Definitive
Boat-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus major</i>	Y	Definitive
Shiny Cowbird	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>	Y	Definitive
Brown-headed Cowbird	<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Y	Definitive
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>	Y	Definitive
Troupial	<i>Icterus icterus</i>	N	Provisional II
Bullock's Oriole	<i>Icterus bullockii</i>	Y	Definitive
Baltimore Oriole	<i>Icterus galbula</i>	Y	Definitive
Pine Grosbeak	<i>Pinicola enucleator</i>	Y	Provisional I
Purple Finch	<i>Carpodacus purpureus</i>	Y	Definitive
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Y	Definitive
Red Crossbill	<i>Loxia curvirostra</i>	Y	Definitive
White-winged Crossbill	<i>Loxia leucoptera</i>	Y	Definitive
Common Redpoll	<i>Carduelis flammea</i>	Y	Definitive
Pine Siskin	<i>Carduelis pinus</i>	Y	Definitive
American Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	Y	Definitive
Evening Grosbeak	<i>Coccothraustes vespertinus</i>	Y	Definitive
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Y	Definitive
Village Weaver	<i>Ploceus cucullatus</i>	N	Provisional II

2002 Spring Bird Count

Peggy Ferebee

Natural Science Center, 4301 Lawndale Drive, Greensboro, NC 27455

This year's count covered 14 count circles, down from 16 last year. High Point, NC, Columbia, SC and Irmo, SC did not report this year. Stone Mountain, NC was added this year. The total field hours reported this year were 928.4, down from 1103 last year. This resulted in fewer birds being counted: 66,427 individuals of 188 species compared to 72,549 individuals of 232 species last year. The lack of counts from coastal areas contributed to the lower species total and lower number of shorebirds, gulls, terns and other species such as the Great Crested Flycatcher that such areas usually report. Many areas reported rain or overcast skies, which also may have affected the outcome. Some species were reported at record lows: Broad-winged Hawk, American Coot, Greater Yellowlegs, Wilson's Snipe, Eastern Kingbird, Fish Crow, White-eyed Vireo, Grasshopper Sparrow and Orchard Oriole. American Kestrels, Tree Swallows, and Blue Grosbeaks also were down. Northern Bobwhites continued their decline but Eastern Meadowlarks held steady. We actually had some good warbler numbers, except for a few species such as Cape May and Yellow-throated Warblers. We also had a record number of Great Blue Herons thanks to a productive rookery in Chapel Hill. House Finches were up but so were Purple Finches and American Goldfinches. Some of the other species with higher numbers this year include Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Bobolink, Dark-eyed Junco, and Northern Oriole.

BCNC-Asheville, NC. Circle center on Bull Mountain near Ox Creek Road. May 12. Weather partly cloudy, temperature 55°-75°F.

Participants: Compiler Marilyn Westphal, Hendersonville, NC. Sally Coburn, Kat Dunham, Lou Dwarshuis, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Marilyn Kolton, Peggy Lasher, Tim Lewis, Esther Pardue, Len Pardue, Kitti Reynolds, Lee Reynolds, Les Saucier, Tom Tribble.

Compiler's comments: The second annual Buncombe County Spring Migration Count took place Sunday, May 12th with 15 participants. The Buncombe County count area covers elevations ranging from 2,000 to over 5,000 feet and captures a wide range of species including several near the southern edge of their breeding range. The most interesting species found were a Black-billed Cuckoo, a Hermit Thrush (late migrant?), and a flock of 52 Bobolinks. Other interesting finds were 28 Tree Swallows found in four of the seven sections in the count area. The breeding range of the Tree Swallow has been expanding south in North Carolina for the past few years and more are found breeding here every year. A total of 270 Cedar Waxwings were also counted, with all sections finding at least a few. This total greatly exceeds the number found on last year's count (39).

CPNC—Chapel Hill, NC. Center Franklin and Columbia. May 12, 05:00–19:30 h. Temperature 59°–87°F with SW wind 5–10 mph, under mostly sunny skies.

Participants: Compiler Will Cook, P.O. Box 3066, Durham, NC 27715. Kim Aycrigg, Scott Barnes, Todd Bishop, Brian Bockhahn, Audrey Booth, Norm Budnitz, Chris Canfield, Bob Chase, Will Cook, Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Paul Ferster, Kent Fiala, Kate Finlayson, John Frederick, Jill Froning, Marie Graves, Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Perry Haaland, Lois Ann Hobbs, Phil Johnson, Alan Johnston, Eleanor Kilgour, Fred Kilgour, Betty King, Jim Lansing, Roy Lindholm, Ken Lundstrom, Kate MacQueen, Carolyn Mercer, Emily Minor, David Murdock, Judy Murray, Oliver Orr, Stephen Perry, Magnus Persmark, Liz Pullman, Toni Rexrode, Dori Rhodes, Mac Robinson, Josh Rose, Barbara Roth, Harriet Sato, Doug Shadwick, Mike Skakuj, Hersch Slater, Lee Sloane, Hal Snyder, Kirsten Snyder, Marsha Stephens, Edith Tatum, Judy Teague, Shelley Theye, Pam Timmons, Ginger Travis, Amalie Tuffin, Lee Van Malssen, Carol Williamson.

Compiler's comments: The Chapel Hill Spring Bird Count on May 12, 2002 had a near record amount of observer effort (190.4 party-hours), which produced a record high count of individuals and many record high counts of individual species. The total of 122 species is average, but the total of 13,706 birds beats the old record by almost 2000.

Several unusual species were found, the best of which were two Semipalmated Sandpipers at the Farrington Road wastewater plant (Stephen Perry and Brian Bockhahn), two Caspian Terns (Doug Shadwick) and one Forster's Tern (Ginger Travis) at Jordan Lake, and a Swainson's Warbler at New Hope Creek (Kent Fiala). Other birds we usually miss included the American Black Duck and Wild Turkey.

Record highs were many, thanks in part to the high level of participation. Even with that taken into consideration, though, we had an excellent count. Great Blue Herons continue their steep ascent, thanks in large part to the breeding colony at Cub Creek, Jordan Lake, found by Alan Johnston. This year's total of 243 is over 100 more than the previous record of 138, set last year. In the recent past, 10–20 Great Blues was a normal count. We also set record highs for Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Wood Duck, Mallard, Wild Turkey, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed, Red-bellied, Downy, and Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Great Crested Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Brown Thrasher, Pine Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Brown-headed Cowbird, and House Finch. The record high counts for woodpeckers may be related to the large number of dead trees from Hurricane Fran. We've been setting many record highs lately for them during the Christmas Bird Counts.

We didn't set any record lows, though we missed Bobolink for the first time since 1971, and had very low numbers of Northern Bobwhites (continuing the long decline), Solitary Sandpiper (Spotted were numerous), and Kentucky Warbler (missed at Mason Farm this year).

DUNC–Durham, NC. Center 1 mile north and east of junction of Eno River and US 501. April 28, 05:30–16:00 h. Temperature 64°–82°F with light rain in the morning. Wind variable and gusty at times, 0–15 mph, under an overcast sky.

Participants: Compiler Michael Schultz, 5504 Woodberry Road, Durham. NC 27707. Patsy Bailey, Lynn Bossong, Norm Budnitz, Sandy Cash, Will Cook, Dwayne Cooke, Rachel Harden, Janet Krakauer, Tom Krakauer, Stephen Perry, Toni Rexrode, Josh Rose, Harriet Sato, Lois Schultz, Michael Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Jonathan Steere, Matt Steere, Sarah Steere, Edith Tatum, Carol Williamson.

Compiler's comments: In general this was a lackluster count. Our species total of 115 was the lowest in 10 years. However, the individual total was only slightly below average. Cliff Swallows, Ovenbirds, Northern Waterthrushes and Indigo Buntings were in record high numbers for this count. Yellow-rumped Warblers were surprising low at 1450. This is about a quarter of the number that we usually record. The 1992 count had a similar low count but other than that we have to go back in the '70s to find similar low counts. Bobwhites and Eastern Meadowlarks continue in meager numbers reflecting their severe habitat loss in our region.

GRNC–Greensboro, NC. Center the intersection of Highway 220 N and Pisgah Church Road. May 4, 06:45–20:00 h. Temperature 49°–58°F. Precipitation 0.28 inches. Wind calm in the morning with light intermittent rain and up to 4–5 mph in the afternoon. Sky was cloudy all day.

Participants: Compiler Donald Allen, 2611 David Caldwell Drive, Greensboro, NC, (336) 288-3045. Carolyn Allen, Donald Allen, Louise Brown, Dennis Burnette, Lynn Burnette, Chris Carter, Sue Cole, Phil Crisp, Scott DePue, Larry Gasper, Herbert Hendrickson, Phillip Kellam, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Jean McCoy, Gregg Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Jean Murphy, John Rucker, Laurie Sorrell, Emily Talbert.

Compiler's comments: Count day was a cool, cloudy, and rainy day. Thus, it was no surprise that both the number of birds and bird counters were less than could have been hoped for. Showers, at times, were heavy and birds and birders sought shelter. This combination of factors resulted in a disappointing count with diminished numbers of species and individual birds.

HCNC–Hendersonville, NC. Circle center near the corner of US 64 and Rugby Road. May 11. Temperature 60°–75°F. Weather partly cloudy. 10 parties, 18 observers.

Participants: Compiler Jim Neal, Hendersonville, NC. Ken Anderson, Helen Bell, James Craig, Larry Farer, Bet Fontaine, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Rick Hensley, Barbara Neal, James Neal, Frances

Ogasawara, Bob Olthoff, Janie Owens, Skylar Segsan, Ron Selvey, Simon Thompson, Marilyn Westphal, Jennifer Wren.

Comments: A total of 110 species were found on the Henderson County Spring count on May 11th. The extensive flat river valleys combined with the mountain forest produced a wide variety of species. The group found an amazing 26 species of warblers including Cerulean, Bay-breasted, and, most surprisingly, a Prothonotary. Even more surprising, the Prothonotary stuck around for three days in the marshy area along the French Broad River where it was found. Another unusual bird for Henderson County was a Sedge Wren also found near the river. The Henderson Count also produced a high number of Cedar Waxwings (214), Northern Bobwhites (17), and Field Sparrows (50). Most of the Bobwhites and Field Sparrows were found in areas that are protected from development, which clearly shows the need to protect open field habitat.

HRNC—Hanging Rock State Park, NC. Center at Visitor Center at Park. April 27, 08:00–14:30 h. Temperature 54°–63°F. No precipitation but overcast all day. Wind 5–10 mph, gusty on ridges.

Participants: Compiler Craig Standridge, Hanging Rock State Park, PO Box 278, Danbury, NC, 27016. Charles Buer, Linda Davis, Rebecca Deaton, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Susan Disher, Sara Jo Durham, Henry Fansler, Karen Hildrith, Hop Hopkins, Judy Jordan, Margaret McJannett, Sean McLean, Ed Mulvey, Margaret Mulvey, Indira Santiago, Liz Schmid, Tom Schmid, David Shuford, Craig Standridge.

WSNC—Winston-Salem, NC. Center intersection of Silas Creek Parkway and Business I-40. May 4, 06:00–18:00 h. Temperature 59°–65°F with mild to heavy precipitation. Mild winds, variable 0–5 mph. Sky cloudy and rainy.

Participants: Compiler David Disher, 4145 Chatham Hill Dr., Winston-Salem, NC 27104. Kay Bergey, Pam Burke, Noel Bynum, Peg Cochrane, Doug DeNeve, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Susan Disher, Gardner Gidley, Margaret Gidley, Bill Gifford, Billy J. Hammond, John Hammond, Susan Hammond, Patty Hauser, Bert Hollifield, Hop Hopkins, Royce Hough, Sheryl Jefferies, Lois Jones, Ray Kandt, Ellen Kirkman, Jim Martin, Jim May, Tom Mowbray, Ed Mulvey, Margaret Mulvey, Ann Newsome, Paul Powers, Mary Riddle, Ann Robertson, Chester Robertson, Liz Schmid, Robin Schmid, Tom Schmid, Jackie Shelton, Ramona Snavely, Sebastian Sommer, Jim Spencer, Bill Suggs, Karen Tally, Tom Tomlinson, Jeff Turner, Gray Tuttle, Abby Whitaker.

ICNC—Iredell County, NC. Center Chipley Ford Road Bridge at South Yadkin River. May 12, 06:30–18:00 h. Temperature 62°–82°F with no rain. Wind SSW 0–10 mph and sky cloudy to partly cloudy.

Participants: Compiler Sam Cathey, 130 Park Street, Statesville, NC 28677. Sam Cathey, Anne Davidson, Doug DeNeve, Pam DeNeve, Cynthia Dickerson, Lois Goforth, Thad Goforth, Jack Greene, Jay Greene, Lee Hollifield, Bo Howes, Larry Marlin, Marianne Murphy, Janice Powell, John

Robertson, Neal Scroggs, Allen Stanley, Garnet Underwood, Ron Underwood, Jonathan Worely.

JLNC–Jordan Lake, NC. Center at former crossing of New Hope River and Pea Ridge Rd. (Rt. 1700), now under water. May 5, 05:00–20:00 h. Temperature 56°–70°F with no precipitation. Wind light and variable to 10 mph, with the sky overcast all morning and clearing in the afternoon.

Participants: Compiler Norman Budnitz, 4114 Garrett Drive, Durham, NC. George Altshuller, Miao-Fang Altshuller, Allison Bailey, Brian Bockhahn, Mary Bratton, Barbara Brooks, Norman Budnitz, Peter Burke, Chris Canfield, Harold Carter, Bob Chase, Barbara Coffman, Patrick Coin, Bobbie Collins-Perry, Will Cook, Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Kate Finlayson, John Frederick, Jill Froning, Marty Girolami, Russell Herman, Judy Hinderliter Smith, Carl Hintz, Loren Hintz, Tom Howard, Katherine Kay, Betty King, Kate Krulia, Barbara Logue, Terry Logue, Phillip Manning, Melinda Meade, Kyle Mills, Mickey Mills, Robin Moran, Karen Morse, Douglas Pawlak, Shannon Pawlak, Rick Payne, Robert Perkins, Stephen Perry, Joshua Rose, Barbara Roth, Peggy Schultz, Douglas Shadwick, Mark Smith, Joshua Southern, Sterling Southern, Brian Strong, Trudy Talnor, Shelley Theye, Ginger Travis, Andy Upshaw, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Carol Williamson, Rouse Wilson, Jeremy Wrenn.

Compiler's comments: May 5 was a cool, mildly breezy day, overcast in the morning but clearing by the afternoon. Sixty observers in 26 parties counted 11,412 individuals (a new record) of 133 species (a bit over our average of 128), during 197 hours in the field (also a new high). The combination of this thorough coverage and the fact that many of our observers are repeaters familiar with the birds and their count areas has resulted in many new records.

Of the more unusual species, the 11 Willets top the list. They were seen by Patrick Coin, George and Miao-Fang Altshuller, Marty Girolami and Steve Perry—the first record for this species for this count! A Horned Grebe in breeding plumage was seen by Mark Smith and Brian Strong. Three parties reported Great Egrets—Harold Carter, Will Cook and Bobbie Collins-Perry, and Phil Manning and Rick Payne. Andy Upshaw and Rouse Wilson had an American Kestrel, and Norm Budnitz and Carol Williamson had a speeding Merlin. Several unusual duck species were reported—an American Black Duck by Sterling Southern, and 4 Ring-necked Ducks and 1 Bufflehead by Cook and Collins-Perry. Brian Bockhahn found 2 White-rumped Sandpipers. Budnitz and Williamson had a Laughing Gull sitting with a Ring-billed at the dam. A male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was found by Loren Hints, Margaret Vimmerstedt and Carl Hintz. Katherine Kay and Robin Moran got a 30-second look at a Swainson's Warbler that unfortunately did not sing for them. Chris Canfield and Kate Finlayson had the opposite problem with a singing Gray-cheeked Thrush that would not let himself be seen.

RANC–Raleigh, NC Center at Wake County Farmer's Market on Lake Wheeler Road. May 11, 06:00–15:00 h. Temperature 60°–75°F with rain in

the morning. Wind 5–10mph. Sky overcast with intended showers and breezy in the morning, clearing in afternoon.

Participants: Compiler John Connors, 1227 Mordecai Drive, Raleigh, NC 27604; John Argentati, Larissa Bailey, Karen Bearden, Joe Bearden, Halbert Carmichael, Salinda Daley, Jorie Favreau, Nathan Favreau, John Finnegan, Lena Gallitano, Susan Gilbert, Lisa Gosselin, Diane Hardy, Anne Hicks, Vernon Janke, William Janke, Will Kimler, Jim Mulholland, Bob O'Brien, Mike Pollard, Laura Potter, Kevin Potter, Susan Rogers, Will Rowland, Harriet Sato, Roger Shaw, Clyde Smith, Julie Angerman-Stewart, Kendrick Weeks, Bob Winstead.

Compiler's comments: The weather was perfect, observers were enthusiastic but migration was slow. Migration was actually slow throughout the spring season, although a cold front arriving on May 13 provided the season's first weeklong fall-out, a day after our official count. I noted Blackpolls, Redstarts, Yellow Warblers and a Magnolia Warbler in my downtown Raleigh yard on the morning of the 13th, the first I had seen this year. Complaints that the count is too late to record migrants were not entirely warranted. We just need help and timing of the appropriate weather systems.

Great Blue Herons are rapidly expanding as breeding birds in our area. At Greenview Pond the colony has expanded from one nest ('99), to two nests ('00), to eight nests ('01), this year with over 20 young ready to fledge. In addition, single nests were found at Yates Mill Pond and along Crabtree Creek near the Buckeye Trail Greenway.

Northern Bobwhites were found at a number of sites where they have been absent for years. These included Schenk Forest, near the NCSU Vet School, at Lake Benson, and along the Neuse River Greenway by Milburnie Dam.

Cliff Swallows continue to nest along Crabtree Creek near the Buckeye Trail. This year there are two nests rather than one. Blue-headed Vireos apparently are nesting both at Umstead and Falls Lake State Parks. A Nashville Warbler was observed by Kendrick Weeks and Joe Pursley at Umstead State Park.

For the first time ever Field Sparrows were not recorded during our count! This is worrisome. Restoration of brush lands and meadow at Anderson Point and Greenview Pond over the next year hopefully will provide some much-needed habitat for this declining species.

MJNC–Mt. Jefferson, NC Center at 36°28'N, 81°27'W. May 11, 06:00–17:00 h. Temperature 55°–74°F with rain in the morning, heavy at times. Wind 5–15 mph with an overcast sky.

Participants: Compiler Vaughn Morrison, 262 Laurel Mountain Estates, Todd, NC 28684; John MacConnell, Beth Morrison, Merrill Lynch, Ida Lynch.

SMNC–Stone Mountain, NC Center at Traphill. May 11, 13:30–15:00 h. Temperature 52°–68°F with no precipitation. Wind NE–S 10–15 mph. Mostly cloudy skies.

Participants: Compiler John MacConnell, 2918 Silas Creek Road, Lansing, NC 28643; Kay Bergey, Pam Burke, Noel Bynum, Peg Cochrane, Doug DeNeve, Phil Dickinson, David Disher, Susan Disher, Gardner Gidley, Margaret Gidley, Bill Gifford, Billy J. Hammond, John Hammond, Susan Hammond, Hattie Hauser, Bert Hollifield, Hop Hopkins, Royce Hough, Sheryl Jefferies, Lois Jones, Ray Kandt, Jim Keighton, Ellen Kirkman, Jim Martin, Jim May, Tom Mowbray, Ed Mulvey, Margaret Mulvey, Ann Newsome, Paul Powers, Mary Riddle, Ann Robertson, Chester Robertson, Liz Schmid, Robin Schmid, Tom Schmid, Jackie Shelton, Ramona Snavelly, Sebastian Sommer, Jim Spencer, Bill Suggs, Karen Tally, Tom Tomlinson, Jeff Turner, Gray Tuttle, Abby Whitaker

RVNC–Raven Rock State Park, NC. Center at junction of NC 210 and SR 1434. April 27, 05:30–17:30 h. Temperature 57°–77°F with trace of precipitation. Wind SE 0–16 mph. Cloudy skies in the morning, cloudy with showers in the evening.

Participants: Compiler Paul C. Hart, Raven Rock State Park, 3009 Raven Rock Road, Lillington, NC 27546; Karin Breiwitz, David Brown, John Bumgarner, Susan Bumgarner, Paul Hart, Scott Hartley, Tom Howard, Barry Jones, Bobby Lutfy, Kevin Reese, Mitch Reese, Susan Rogers, Larry Rose, Mary Stevens, Sarah Stevens, Erik Thomas.

Compiler's comments: The total of 123 species is a new record for the count, surpassing the record of 122 set in 1989 and tied in 2000. Seen during count week but not count day were Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Warbling Vireo. The vireo, the first known record for the park, was a singing male at the park superintendent's residence the morning after count day. About the only species that was likely in the count circle on count day but missed was American Woodcock. This year the Cape Fear River was covered by canoe from the park to Lillington, largely accounting for the good totals of species such as Osprey (14), Great Blue Heron (29) and Prothonotary Warbler (43). Encouragingly, Loggerhead Shrike numbers continue to grow, with a count high total of 27! The number of non-migratory Canada Geese continues to expand, with 151 counted. Not only are geese being seen on local farm ponds, but also they have now taken up residence on the Cape Fear River.

SPSC–Spartanburg, SC Center at junction of County Roads 539 and 590. May 11, 06:00–22:30 h. Temperature 63°–66°F. 0.01 inch precipitation. Wind NE 5.7–14.7 mph, with 80–90% cloud cover.

Participants: Compiler Lyle Campbell, 126 Greengate Lane, Spartanburg, SC 29307; Patrick Baldwin, Laura Bannon, Anna Brown, Tim Brown, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Elaine Cheek, Matthew Coleman, Teresa Coleman, Tom Moore Craig, Glen Englehardt, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Dennis Funk, Ron Gahagan, Onoosh Gahagan, Teresa Glen, John Green, Catherine Griffith, Lauren Griffith, Bennett Grizzard, Conway Henderson, Marvin Jackson, Connie Jenne, Ron Jenne, Herb Kay, Mickey Marotte, Mary Ann Myers, Mike Miller, Angela Miller, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Bill Moody, Nancy Owens, Ken Pearson, Lisa Pearson, Bob Powell, Sandra

Powell, Walton Scott, Ginny Scott, Mac Shealy, Laurel Sullivan, James West, Dan Wooten, Nancy Wooten

Compiler's comments: The Spartanburg Count this spring was marked by a strong front that came through two days before May 11, providing encouragement for all our migrants to move north. Consequently, our warbler count was very low. The county count of nightjars was also low, and we recorded no Wood-Pee-wee. On the other hand, we had some very odd birds, of which the Snowy Egret was the most notable. We had fewer field and feeder workers this year, meaning several normally productive areas were not covered.

Table 1. 2002 Spring Bird Count

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Canada Goose	54	440	215	318		205	78	151		362	151		243	32	2249	242.24
Wood Duck	8	77	16	34		24	4	40	2	18	29		21	7	280	30.16
American Black Duck		1						1							2	0.22
Mallard	51	111	51	218		55	5	80	1	96	64		65	29	826	88.97
Mallard x Black Duck				1											1	0.11
Blue-winged Teal						1									1	0.11
Northern Pintail										2					2	0.22
Ring-necked Duck								4							4	0.43
Bufflehead								1							1	0.11
Red-breasted Merganser										2			1		3	0.32
Ruddy Duck													1		1	0.11
Ruffed Grouse	1														1	0.11
Wild Turkey	16	10	6	2	2	8	4	4	3		4			11	70	7.54
Northern Bobwhite	7	3	4			17	8	17			13		2	2	73	7.86
Common Loon								1						1	2	0.22
Pied-billed Grebe				1							1		2		4	0.43
Horned Grebe								1							1	0.11
Double-crested Cormorant	1	133	547	47				538	1	41	28		14	3	1353	145.73

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Great Blue Heron	1	243	88	24			8	104	2	67	29			4	570	61.40
Great Egret		10		2				8			4		1		25	2.69
Snowy Egret														1	1	0.11
Little Blue Heron			1										1		2	0.22
Cattle Egret											1				1	0.11
Green Heron	2	16	4	12		7	6	14		7	14		8	2	92	9.91
Black-crowned Night-Heron							1								1	0.11
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron													11	2	13	1.40
Black Vulture		43	35	10	4	1	7	18	1	1	1		4	31	156	16.80
Turkey Vulture	27	173	57	42	27	29	19	210	22	11	36	17	23	4	697	75.08
Osprey	1	11	11	1				45		1	14		*	1	85	9.16
Bald Eagle		11	1					31		1	3				47	5.06
Northern Harrier							1				2		1		4	0.43
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2	4	3	3			1	3					1	*	17	1.83
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	4	2		1	3	4	2	1	1		3	*	26	2.80
<i>Accipiter sp.</i>			2								1				3	0.32
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	43	10	3		1	7	40		11	15		6	2	140	15.08
Broad-winged Hawk	1	1	1	1		3			1		2				10	1.08
Red-tailed Hawk	6	31	20	7	1	1	10	26	3	8	24	3	9	14	163	17.56
American Kestrel	3	1				2		1		2	3		1		13	1.40
Merlin								1							1	0.11

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
American Coot				1											1	0.11
Killdeer		54	14	17		14	11	39	2	13	51		16	10	241	25.96
Greater Yellowlegs				2		1				2	1				6	0.65
Lesser Yellowlegs			1							3			3		8	0.86
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	14	20		5	2	16		8	11		21	*	98	10.56
Willet								11							11	1.18
Spotted Sandpiper	10	23	12	41		5	5	39	3	16	28		21	3	206	22.19
Semipalmated Sandpiper		2								6					8	0.86
Least Sandpiper				5		4		3		13			15		40	4.31
White-rumped Sandpiper								2							2	0.22
Wilson's Snipe											1				1	0.11
Laughing Gull								1							1	0.11
Bonaparte's Gull				13											13	1.40
Ring-billed Gull		4	52	160				206		23			303		748	80.57
Caspian Tern		2	3					6					1		12	1.29
Forster's Tern		1													1	0.11
Rock Pigeon	3	68	59	15		19	51	47	10	121	75		47	6	521	56.12
Mourning Dove	127	393	130	151	7	117	98	259	13	111	277		166	118	1967	211.87
Black-billed Cuckoo	1			*			1								2	0.22
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	16				2	5	13		3	2		2	1	47	5.06
Eastern Screech-Owl		4						1			2		2	*	9	0.97

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Great Horned Owl		7	1				1	3						1	18	1.94
Barred Owl	1	17	6	1			2	4	1				4	1	45	4.85
Common Nighthawk				1			3			1				2	7	0.75
Chuck-will's-widow							3	5		2			1	2	17	1.83
Whip-poor-will		29					1	28						4	65	7.00
Chimney Swift	80	255	88	33		53	53	150	8	100	140		54	60	1074	115.68
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	9	61	26	2		4	15	25	7	16	13		5	10	193	20.79
Belted Kingfisher	5	11	8	7		9	7	11		4	10		10	2	84	9.05
Red-headed Woodpecker		41	14	3			4	25		5	5		1	1	99	10.66
Red-bellied Woodpecker	30	240	52	60	8	23	35	170	4	73	77		43	24	839	90.37
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker								1						2	3	0.32
Downy Woodpecker	12	102	21	18	1	7	12	54	4	21	20	2	14	16	304	32.74
Hairy Woodpecker	3	19	9	1	1			32	1	7	2	1	4	3	83	8.94
Northern Flicker	15	43	10	22	4	19	5	33	1	26	17		33	7	235	25.31
Pileated Woodpecker	13	33	5	2	5	15	8	21	2	6	17		1	8	136	14.65
Eastern Wood-Pewee	29	85	4	5	1	10	7	32	1	11	16		3		204	21.97
Acadian Flycatcher	10	64	3	3		8	3	22	2	19	24		1	3	162	17.45
Alder Flycatcher										1					1	0.11
Willow Flycatcher						16			2						18	1.94
Least Flycatcher									1						1	0.11
Eastern Phoebe	46	82	25	14	1	34	33	56	8	12	29	3	24	28	395	42.55

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Great Crested Flycatcher	8	76	27	22	14	7	12	110	1	47	89	1	25	2	441	47.50
Eastern Kingbird	9	57	23	9		12	15	85	8	17	54		13	14	316	34.04
Loggerhead Shrike							2			1	27				30	3.23
White-eyed Vireo	4	52	30	2	2	19	13	53	3	18	30		3		229	24.67
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	25	14	1	1	5	1	16	1	4	6				80	8.62
Blue-headed Vireo	27	13	2	3	10	13		16	6	2	1	1			94	10.12
Warbling Vireo	3														3	0.32
Philadelphia Vireo													1		1	0.11
Red-eyed Vireo	128	339	142	53	34	84	40	280	28	51	105	5	44	9	1342	144.55
Blue Jay	70	239	70	80	19	77	53	166	5	52	101	2	74	81	1089	117.30
American Crow	196	414	114	167	24	153	93	442	65	113	225	6	140	111	2263	243.75
Fish Crow		55	17	24				16		18	17		6		153	16.48
Common Raven				*		3			2			1	3		9	0.97
Horned Lark											4				4	0.43
Purple Martin	1	49	26	291		5	58	54		22	60		19	25	610	65.70
Tree Swallow	28	6	21	56		10		31	14	1	2		1		170	18.31
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	16	40	10	75		27	2	53	12	22	26		62		345	37.16
Bank Swallow				1				33			1			4	39	4.20
Cliff Swallow		2	48	11				184					75		320	34.47
Barn Swallow	31	95	84	233	1	78	96	305	27	67	116		139	18	1290	138.95

Great Crested Flycatcher
Eastern Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike
White-eyed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Carolina Chickadee	71	482	95	88	30	85	42	310	4	91	94		65	57	1514	163.08
Tufted Titmouse	78	512	119	92	25	49	69	352	10	94	107	6	71	59	1643	176.97
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4			5							1				10	1.08
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	75	10	9	10	3	9	22	5	16	4		21	7	199	21.43
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1	97	33	22			9	93		21	18		16	18	328	35.33
Brown Creeper							1								1	0.11
Carolina Wren	49	447	117	101	23	92	31	290	10	126	123	1	82	43	1535	165.34
House Wren	21	35	16	9		10	6	9	6	5	4		14	4	139	14.97
Winter Wren	5														5	0.54
Sedge Wren	7				1	1									1	0.11
Golden-crowned Kinglet					1										8	0.86
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			9	12	6			6	1		7		7		48	5.17
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22	477	212	32	6	16	20	257	2	67	90		14	11	1226	132.06
Eastern Bluebird	51	285	99	103	1	44	105	259	8	45	160		61	73	1294	139.38
Veery	7			5			3		2	3	1		10		31	3.34
Gray-cheeked Thrush								1					2		3	0.32
Swainson's Thrush	1	4		13		3	3	2		1			36		63	6.79
Hermit Thrush	1			2							4		*		7	0.75
Wood Thrush	38	160	32	51	4	31	20	72	8	12	36	2	37	7	510	54.93
American Robin	151	418	175	442		177	152	104	40	169	134	4	380	156	2502	269.50
Gray Catbird	18	86	62	73	1	23	29	62	25	17	40	1	68	17	522	56.23

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Northern Mockingbird	58	291	73	103		66	79	139	5	49	153		60	85	1161	125.05
Brown Thrasher	20	144	37	29	1	36	33	97	2	28	67		36	37	567	61.07
European Starling	229	328	186	362		214	149	144	40	71	412	2	577	119	2833	305.15
American Pipit		3											1		4	0.43
Cedar Waxwing	270	177	17	248		214	231	116	9	41	71		140	28	1562	168.25
Blue-winged Warbler				1											1	0.11
Tennessee Warbler					3							1			4	0.43
Northern Parula	9	98	40	28	3	14	8	93	1	17	26		18	*	355	38.24
Yellow Warbler	16	14	17	14		12	1	7	10	5	6	1	15		118	12.71
Chestnut-sided Warbler	31			7		19	2	3	6				9		77	8.29
Magnolia Warbler		3		3	1	1	2	4	1			2	5		22	2.37
Cape May Warbler				1		2							1		4	0.43
Black-throated Blue Warbler	38	39	8	47	18	3	3	57	2	6	7	1	31	*	260	28.01
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2	46	140	209	56	12	15	253	1	6	170		102	*	1012	109.00
Black-throated Green Warbler	20	3	1	3	19	19		6	1				14		86	9.26
Blackburnian Warbler	28				3	1				1					33	3.55
Yellow-throated Warbler	5	28	15			5	3	72		5	29		3		165	17.77
Pine Warbler	1	272	57	29	18	3	7	335		26	29		9	13	799	86.06
Prairie Warbler		33	36	1			2	117		2	38		1		230	24.77
Palm Warbler		1	14	1				2			2		9	3	32	3.45

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
Field Sparrow	9	26	34	22		50	30	36	9	3	37	2	9	9	276	29.73
Savannah Sparrow			14	14				5	1	1	52		9		96	10.34
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	7	1			4	21		1	1	2		3		41	4.42
Song Sparrow	195	29	21	57		191	19	6	25	3			48	10	604	65.06
Swamp Sparrow		3	17					4			5		2		31	3.34
White-throated Sparrow	2	14	94	45	5	2	1	45		1	99		40	13	361	38.88
White-crowned Sparrow	1		8	4		1							1		15	1.62
Dark-eyed Junco	32		1		1	2			14			2		*	52	5.60
Northern Cardinal	126	1001	212	239	29	98	112	432	12	201	190		178	91	2921	314.63
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	14	3		7				18	15	2	*		17	9	85	9.16
Blue Grosbeak		49	26	9		5	22	94		19	31		4	4	263	28.33
Indigo Bunting	164	278	116	35	4	152	46	264	10	37	61	4	38	15	1224	131.84
Bobolink	52			129			1	155	1		82		5		425	45.78
Red-winged Blackbird	116	125	97	78		61	36	131	40	72	110		70	29	965	103.94
Eastern Meadowlark	15	27	16	9		23	75	55	5	4	67		22	10	328	35.33
Rusty Blackbird			1												1	0.11
Common Grackle	73	390	462	485		103	218	367	20	199	363		283	100	3063	329.92
Brown-headed Cowbird	19	161	91	50		13	18	187	3	35	110	2	34	30	753	81.11
Orchard Oriole	7	31	28	13		4	4	55	5	6	20		6	2	181	19.50
Baltimore Oriole	9	1		6		1	1		6	2	1		18	1	46	4.95
Purple Finch							2						11	9	22	2.37

Species	BCNC	CPNC	DUNC	GRNC	HRSP	HCNC	ICNC	JLNC	MJNC	RANC	RVNC	SMNC	WSNC	SPSC	Total	Birds per Hundred Hours
House Finch	69	394	62	73		80	49	117	6	65	71		79	66	1131	121.82
Pine Siskin	13	*				12			6						31	3.34
American Goldfinch	102	556	232	410	3	127	102	390	78	99	88	1	421	63	2672	287.81
House Sparrow	15	110	75	26		9	39	42	20	32	106		17	10	501	53.96
No. of species	111	122	115	121	54	110	106	133	94	113	122	32	131	87	188	
No. of individuals	3874	13702	5965	6461	571	3705	2863	11487	843	3609	6009	92	5281	1979	66441	7157
Total field hours	46.05	190.4	61.5	83.25	25	46	38.5	197.25	20	65	60.75	1.5	101.25	38	928.4	
Hours on foot	15	132.8	52	58	25	28.75	18.5	141.75	13	55.5	29.25	0	79.75	31	665.3	
Hours by car	31.05	51.1	8	25.25	0	17.25	20	46	7	9.5	26	1.5	21.5	7	240.1	
Hours by bike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Hours by boat	0	6.5	0	0	0	0	0	7.5	0	0	5.5	0	0	0	19.5	
Hours owling	0	3.75	1.5	0	0	0	0	4.5	0	2	1.25	0	3	2.5	18.5	
Total field miles	309	435	120.75	294	16.8	179.25	229.6	379.5	117	125	366	25	282.25	139	2709.15	
Miles on foot	13	114.5	36.5	36.5	16.8	21.75	13.3	112	7	47	21	0	40.25	19	485.6	
Miles by car	296	315	84.25	257.5	0	157.5	216.3	256.5	110	78	337	25	240	129	2206.05	
Miles by bike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
Miles by boat	0	5.5	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	11.5	
Miles owling	0	5	1	0	0	0	0	14.25	0	10	0.5	0	3	25.5	59.25	
Date	12 May	12 May	28 Apr	04 May	27 Apr	11 May	12 May	05 May	11 May	11 May	27 Apr	11 May	04 May	11 May		

General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

A Probable Case of Facultative Polygyny in the Barn Owl

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Reviews by Marti (1992) and Taylor (1994) state that polygyny is unusual in the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). Polygyny has been estimated to occur in less than 2% of matings, and has not yet been documented from eastern North America. We report a probable case of bigamy, in which two females nested close together, both apparently within the territory of one male. On 15 March 2002 (14:00 h) we found two Barn Owl nests in an observation tower on Santee Coastal Reserve, near Cape Romain, Charleston County, South Carolina. The tower is on a 0.5 ha oak-pine hammock surrounded by brackish impoundments and salt marshes. The 17 m high tower has three levels.

One nest was in a Barn Owl box that had been placed on the second level of the tower on the outer NE corner, 11 m above ground. It contained five

^{*} Outgoing General Field Notes editor Dennis Forsythe acted as editor for notes in this issue authored or co-authored by William Post.

eggs and one 1-2 day old chick. The young and eggs were on a mass of pellets composed of the remains of Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) and Rice Rats (*Oryzomys palustris*). Two freshly killed Rice Rats lay next to the chick. The second nest was one story above, on the top level of the tower. This nest was placed on the bare floor in the NW corner of the partially enclosed observation area. It had seven warm eggs. One egg had been damaged, and we opened it. The contents were fresh, with no discernible embryo, indicating that incubation was not advanced. The nests were 4.0 m apart, but their occupants would have been out of view of each other.

On 5 April, Sanders revisited the tower. Two owls flushed from the tower. The nest on the second level contained one large nestling and one that was 12-14 days old. The nest on the third level had one 1-day-old chick and one warm egg. The remaining four eggs were scattered outside the nest and were cold. Two dead Rice Rats were next to the nest, but any pellets that may have been deposited appeared to have been blown away.

The respective hatching dates indicate that the second clutch was initiated 21 days after the first. We did not see any social interactions between the owls, nor did we see more than two owls flush from the tower at one time. Because of this observation, and because of the closeness of the nests and the timing of the clutch starts, we assume that both nests were within the territory of one male. These circumstances provide strong evidence that the male was a bigamist.

Polygamy is rare in this species. In Scotland, Taylor (1994) found bigamy in only 2% of 419 nesting attempts. As described by Taylor (1994), in winter one or more first-year visiting females occasionally roosted together with a resident female. These usually left before the breeding season, but in some cases a second female remained, and even continued to roost alongside the incubating female. The secondary females subsequently mated with the territorial males. Although some cases involved females that nested up to 1 km apart, in one instance two females nested only centimeters apart. In northern Utah, Marti (1990) documented cases in which two females successfully nested together in the same nest.

We conjecture that in the present case the putative multiple pairing may have been a facultative response to a shortage of nest sites. Man-made structures and predator-secure natural cavities are rare in the tidal marsh zone of South Carolina. This scarcity is demonstrated by the fact that in 1991 all 10 barn owl boxes placed in salt marshes in the Cape Romain area were used within one year by nesting Barn Owls. Despite a scarcity of nest sites, Barn Owl density is potentially high, as food does not appear to be limited. Rice Rats and Meadow Voles, the main prey of Barn Owls in the Cape Romain area (Chamberlain 1979), are locally common in salt marshes. Rice Rats, for example, have been found at densities of up to 16 individuals/ha in *Spartina alterniflora*–*Juncus roemerianus* marshes in Charleston County (Post, unpubl.). It is likely that Barn Owls nesting on the southeastern coast will benefit from the continued provision of artificial sites.

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First South Carolina Specimens of the Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*)

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The Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) is a pelagic warm-water species rarely seen near shore (Clapp et al. 1982). On the North American Atlantic coast, seabirds such as boobies are most often found in productive feeding areas far from land. For example, in the South Atlantic Bight, between Cape Hatteras and the Florida peninsula, seabirds aggregate around *Sargassum* reefs associated with the Gulf Stream, which often meanders as far as 100 km from shore (Haney 1986a). Through 2002, only about five credible reports existed for the Masked Booby in South Carolina. The two Masked Boobies reported here constitute the first South Carolina specimens.

The first state specimen of the Masked Booby, a first-year female, was salvaged on 10 August 2003, Folly Beach, Charleston County. An unknown tourist delivered it to Sea Island Veterinary Clinic, where it died. Its physical characteristics were as follows: mass: 965 g; wing: 40 cm (chord), 41.3 cm (flat); span: 157 cm; total length: 76.5 cm. It was not molting. Its stomach was empty. It was prepared as a standard study skin, with the left wing detached and extended. (Charleston Museum 2003.27.071).

I salvaged the second state specimen, which was a subadult female (Fig.1), on the front beach of Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, 11 August 2003 at 20:30 h. The bird was able to walk, but not fly. It died in captivity one day later. Its measurements were: mass: 1126 g; wing: 39.0 (chord); 40.8 cm (flat); wing span: 155 cm; total length: 75.5 cm; tail 14.5 cm. The plumage was worn, with new rectrices emerging. It had no body molt, although wing molt was present. The stomach was empty. The specimen was prepared as a "schmoo" (skull retained with skeleton), and the right wing was detached and spread. (ChM 2003.27.072).



Figure 1. Subadult female Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*), Sullivan's Island, Charleston County, South Carolina, 11 August 2003.

The beaching of these two individuals on the opposite shores of Charleston Harbor, 14 km apart, and within two days of each other, is a highly improbable event, especially as weather patterns were normal at the time. The specimens reported here are the first for South Carolina. They also constitute the second and third verified reports for the state. The first verified report was that of an individual photographed offshore 113 miles east of Hilton Head Island on 14 July 1983 (Lee and Haney 1984).

At least five sightings have been made of this species in South Carolina. The first was made by A. Sprunt, Jr, who reported seeing two on 23 January 1937 at Folly Beach. This observation was not published until 12 years later, and lacked details (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949). This would be the only mid-winter record for the Atlantic Coast north of central Florida (Stevenson and Anderson 1994). The two birds that Sprunt sighted were probably Northern Gannets, *Sula bassanus* (McNair and Post 1993).

The four additional South Carolina reports, which all appear to be credible, are: 1) One seen off Charleston, 23 September 1984 (*in* LeGrand 1985). 2) One seen following a shrimp boat off Litchfield Beach, Georgetown County, 21 Nov 1998 (*in* Davis 1999). 3) One reported off Charleston, 16 May 1992 (Legrand 1993). 4) An adult reported 29 km off Winyah Bay, Georgetown County, on 4 July 2002 (Sutton and Allen 2003).

Lee (1995) reviewed the status of the species in North Carolina. Its occurrence in that state is supported by two specimens, collected on 14 August 1984 (Lee 1995) and at least two photographs (Parnell 1984,

LeGrand 1992). The first verified North Carolina report was obtained in 1981 (Davis and Needham 1983) and a photograph was published by Parnell (1984). In contrast to South Carolina, a large number of sight reports exist for North Carolina. For example, Avendex (2003) lists 31 sightings involving at least 36 individuals between 1966 and 2000. The first North Carolina sight report, made in 1966, appears to be the only one for which details have been published (Holmes 1966).

Georgia has seven accepted Masked Booby reports (Beaton et al. 2003). These include two birds photographed while they perched on a transmitter platform 125 km off the coast of Savannah, 14 November 1993 (Moore 1994; Beaton et al. 2003). In addition, there is a report of a bird found dead, but not salvaged, from Cumberland Island, 2 February 1986 (Brisse 1986). This is now believed to be a Northern Gannet (G. Beaton pers. comm.).

Once considered accidental in South Carolina (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949) or, more likely, hypothetical (McNair and Post 1993), the reports that have accumulated since 1984 warrant revising the Masked Booby's status in South Carolina to that of a very rare visitor. The gradual accumulation of reports confirms Lee and Haney's (1984) contention that the northward postbreeding dispersal of Masked Boobies is a normal, though rare, event. As the species no longer breeds in the Bahamas, and is rare in the Caribbean (Lee and Haney 1984), its changed status is undoubtedly related to increased fieldwork by ornithologists.

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A 1971 Limpkin Record from the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, SC

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Until 2001, the Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*) was classified as a casual visitor to South Carolina, with only three records, all based on specimens (Post and Gauthreaux, *Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds*, 1989). During 2001 and 2002, however, six additional reports were made (reviewed by Cely et al. *Chat* 67:56–58, 2003). This note provides written details and photographic documentation for an unpublished record from the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge, Jasper County, SC.

At 08:00 h on 18 April 1971, Metz found a Limpkin feeding within impoundment number 12 at the Laurel Hill Wildlife Drive on the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge. The bird was feeding within 20 m of the interior bank of the dike. Metz met Jean and John Thomas along the wildlife drive and showed them the Limpkin. John Thomas photographed the bird (Fig. 1). Metz was unable to locate the Limpkin subsequently. Coincidentally, this bird was within 0.5 km of a Limpkin that Giff Beaton photographed 30 years later (Cely et al., op. cit.).

With this record, South Carolina now has at least ten acceptable reports of this species, three of which are documented by specimens and six by photographs.



Figure 1. Limpkin at Savannah River National Wildlife Refuge, 18 April 1971 (Photo by John Thomas)

Corrigendum

In "Spring 2003 North American Migration Count in South Carolina", *Chat* 67:136 (Fall 2003), the number "15" in the Table 3 row for Yellow-bellied Flycatcher in Charleston County should actually have appeared in the row below as the number of Acadian Flycatchers. No Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported.

BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Fall 2003, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: Reports continue in the southern coastal area of South Carolina. Two were at Donnelley WMA Aug. 22 (Nathan Dias, Dennis Forsythe). Continuing their presence from the summer season, one was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site Aug. 14 and several were there until at least Nov. 12 when five were seen. The peak count noted was seven on Oct. 26 (Steve Calver).

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: Only one report was received of this irregular, rare duck. One was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 1–6 (Steve Calver).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, Greater White-fronteds were found in both states. In North Carolina, one was west of Morehead City Nov. 14–15 (John Fussell et al.) and one was at Carolina Beach Nov. 20 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell). In South Carolina, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site Nov. 22 (Steve Calver), and two were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR Nov. 29 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

SNOW GOOSE: There were scattered reports of this species in both states. The farthest west were six at Warren Wilson College, Asheville, NC Nov. 16 (Janie Owen, Tim Lewis), eight in Hendersonville, NC Nov. 26 (Wayne Forsythe), and four in Henderson County, NC Nov. 30 (Forsythe).

ROSS'S GOOSE: This species was reported from eastern North Carolina again this fall. The L. Landing area at L. Mattamuskeet had good numbers, with four being found Nov. 9 (Haven Wiley et al.) and 10 being there Nov. 15 (Russ Tyndall et al.). Also one was at the Pungo Unit, Pocosin Lakes NWR Nov. 16 (Ricky Davis).

BARNACLE GOOSE: An adult in excellent plumage was found at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 9 (Haven Wiley et al.). This bird apparently arrived with the Snow Geese and remained until the winter season. As is always the case with this species, the wildness and origin of the bird are points of contention.

TUNDRA SWAN: Four Tundras at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Nov. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal, Bob Olthoff, Ron Selvey) were excellent finds for the mountains.

EURASIAN WIGEON: Only two reports were received this fall. A male was at the usual North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC area Nov. 2 (Bruce Young, Rick Payne, Jill Froning), and a female was a good find at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 1–9 (Steve Calver, Dennis Forsythe, Larry Lynch).

CINNAMON TEAL: Only one was noted this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 4 (Steve Calver).

COMMON EIDER: A female Common was at Bogue Inlet, NC Nov. 12, as noted by Greg Massey.

SURF SCOTER: There was a definite movement of Surfs inland on Nov. 8, as four were on L. Hickory, NC (Dwayne Martin), six were on L. Julian, NC (Wayne Forsythe), and 12 were at Falls L., NC (Dan Kaplan).

BLACK SCOTER: Eight of this species were observed at Falls L., NC Nov. 8 (Dan Kaplan) during the previously noted movement of inland waterfowl. Also one was locally unusual at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Nov. 22 (Steve Calver).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Two were excellent finds at Falls L., NC Nov. 8, as noted by Dan Kaplan.

COMMON MERGANSER: This fall's reports included two females on L. Julian, NC Nov. 8 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), a female at Huntington

Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 22 (Ritch Lilly), and a female at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Nov. 26 (Ricky Davis).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Most unusual was the report of a female Red-breasted in a flooded field in the Sandhills near Lumber Bridge, NC on the early date of Aug. 20 (Scott Hartley). More expected were several noteworthy inland sightings including 37 at Jordan L., NC Nov. 22 (Joe & Karen Bearden), 11 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 30 (Ricky Davis), four at Deer L., Transylvania County, NC Nov. 23 (Tom Joyce), three at L. Hickory, NC Nov. 8 (Dwayne Martin), and three at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Nov. 8 (Steve Shultz).

COMMON LOON: A Common at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC Sept. 19 was somewhat early (Steve Calver), but one on L. Hickory, NC Aug. 27 was extremely early (Dwayne Martin). The highest inland count reported was the 175+ on Jordan L., NC Nov. 8 (Steve Shultz).

EARED GREBE: The only Eared Grebes noted this fall were seven at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 4 (Steve Calver) and one at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Nov. 2 (Jim O'Donnell).

NORTHERN FULMAR: A Fulmar observed out of Hatteras Inlet, NC Oct. 12 (Brian Patteson et al.) was the only one reported and was somewhat early.

FEA'S PETREL: A Fea's Petrel was a good find off of Hatteras, NC Sept. 13 (Brian Patteson et al.). This rare *Pterodroma* is very hard to find during the fall season.

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: A good count of ten Black-cappeds was had off of Charleston, SC Sept. 27 (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina, the peak fall total was 218 off Hatteras Aug. 24 (Brian Patteson et al.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: Very unusual in the fall season, Sooty Shearwaters found included one off Hatteras, NC Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.) and 1-2 off Charleston, SC Aug. 24 (Nathan Dias et al.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: An Audubon's was quite unexpected flying by the C. Hatteras, NC point Aug. 3, as noted by Russ and Patricia Tyndall. The day after the passage of Hurricane Isabel, an Audubon's/Manx shearwater was at the L. Gaston, NC dam Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders). This was the only storm-transported shearwater reported with this storm.

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL: Wilson's Storm-Petrels brought inland by Hurricane Isabel included one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 19 (Eric Dean), and up to nine between L. Gaston, NC and Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders, Frank Enders).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The peak offshore count noted was the 47 off of Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9 (Brian Patteson et al.). Inland one was a good find after Hurricane Isabel at Satterwhite Pt., Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

WHITE-TAILED TROPICBIRD: Hurricane Isabel produced two inland tropicbirds, with one adult seen in flight at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) and another adult found dead in a field south of Smithfield, NC Sept. 20 (*fide* Clyde Sorenson).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: An immature was a good find off Hatteras, NC Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.). This species was reported off North Carolina much more than usual this year, with multiple spring and summer sightings.

MASKED BOOBY: North Carolina had one Masked this season, that being a sub-adult off Hatteras Aug. 23 (Brian Patteson et al.). In South Carolina, where the species is harder to come by, two were found. A first-year bird, found stranded at Folly Beach Aug. 10 (*fide* Will Post), later died and became the state's first specimen. A sub-adult was picked up at Sullivan's Is. Aug. 11 (Post), thereby becoming that state's second specimen.

NORTHERN GANNET: One off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 10 (Brian Patteson et al.) provided an unusual August report.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species has been increasing in the Carolinas the last couple of years. In North Carolina, a group of a dozen or more was in the Pea Is. NWR area from Nov. 2 until the winter (Bruce Young et al., m. obs.), nine were east of Aurora, Beaufort County, Nov. 3 (Richard Bruce et al.), two were at Wrightsville Beach Nov. 6 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), and three were at L. Mattamuskeet Nov. 29 (Jeff Beane, Kelly Davis et al.). Numbers of this species in South Carolina were quite impressive. A flock of 200 over Wadmalaw Is., Charleston County Aug. 10 (*fide* Julian Harrison) was flying toward the ACE Basin area, a stronghold for the species. The peak count at the Savannah Spoil Site was 65 on Oct. 26 (Steve Calver). Other sightings of note included 14 at Mt. Pleasant Sept. 14 (Craig Watson, Andy Harrison), 13 at Folly Beach Oct. 16 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott), 11 at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Nov. 7 (Phil Turner), eight at Winyah Bay, Georgetown County Nov. 23 (Donna & Dennis Forsythe), two in Berkeley County Oct. 21 (Dennis Forsythe), and three inland at L. Murray Nov. 4 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

ANHINGA: One was a surprise over the Mt. Pisgah, NC hawk watch Sept. 21 (Bill Sanderson et al.). This is potentially the first sighting from a high-elevation location in our mountains.

AMERICAN BITTERN: One near the confluence of the Mills R. and the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC Nov. 2 (Marilyn Westphal) was a locally noteworthy find.

GREAT "WHITE" HERON: One was a good find at Bear Is. WMA, SC Oct. 10 (Ricky Davis). This bird, like several previous ones in the Carolinas, remained through the fall and on into the winter.

REDDISH EGRET: The number of reports of this wader was about average. In South Carolina, one was on Seabrook Is. Aug. 8-9 (Drew Grainger); two were at Cape Romain NWR Aug. 25 (Craig Watson), one was at Kiawah Is. Aug. 28 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), and one was at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Sept. 3 (Bob Maxwell) until at least Oct. 3-4 (Jack Peachey, Maxwell, Robin Carter). In North Carolina, one was at Topsail Is. Aug. 4 (Todd Pepper, Bruce DiLabio), two were at Portsmouth Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one was at the Bodie Is. lighthouse pond Aug. 30 (Rich & Susan Boyd), one was at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County Sept.

29 (John Fussell, Rich Boyd), and one was at Ft. Fisher Nov. 5–6 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell).

CATTLE EGRET: Locally unusual for late fall were three at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR, NC Nov. 16 (Ricky Davis), one at Savannah NWR, SC Nov. 22 (Carroll Richard, Jerry Raymond), and one near Allendale, SC Nov. 22 (Robin Carter). Also quite unexpected were 10 offshore out of Hatteras Inlet, NC Oct. 12 (Brian Patteson et al.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: An immature Black-crown was along the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC Aug. 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), providing a locally uncommon sighting for the mountains.

GLOSSY IBIS: Locally unusual were two inland at the agricultural research station near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis). Also of note were two inland near New Bern, NC Aug. 15 (Al Gamache).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: There were two locations in the Carolinas this season where spoonbills were present. At the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, an impressive total of 15 was there Aug. 30 (Steve Calver). The numbers dwindled during the fall until two were seen as late as Nov. 22 (Calver). In the Sunset Beach, NC area, one present from the summer season was seen again Aug. 7 (Rick Robinson). Then three were found Sept. 11 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), with two hanging on until at least Sept. 24 (Mary McDavit).

WOOD STORK: Three were a surprise over Caesar's Head, SC Sept. 16 (*fide* Jeff Catlin). This was a first for the mountains of that state, although several upper Piedmont sightings exist.

OSPREY: This species seemed to linger in the Carolinas a little more than usual this fall. Some of the more interesting reports involved five at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 9 (Ricky Davis), one at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Nov. 8 (Rick Knight), one at Winston-Salem, NC Nov. 22 (*fide* Ramona Snavelly), one at Clemmons, Forsyth County, NC Nov. 24 (*fide* Snavelly), two at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Nov. 25 (Davis), and one at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC Nov. 28 (Dwayne Martin).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: In North Carolina, several of the group that summered along the Cape Fear R. near the Bladen/Columbus County line were still present as late as Aug. 9 (*fide* Hal Broadfoot). In South Carolina, notable sightings included one near Manning Aug. 30 (Sam DeMent), and one over Pendleton, Anderson County Sept. 1 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.) in the company of two Mississippi Kites!

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Locally rare or unusual were one at Pea Is. NWR, NC Aug. 3 (Ed & Michelle Talbot), two in Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC Sept. 17 (Reece Mitchell), and two over Pendleton, SC Sept. 1 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr.).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: An immature Goshawk was an excellent find near Amity, Hyde County, NC Nov. 24, as noted by Wayne Irvin. This bird, like most Goshawks in our area, could not be relocated.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK: This species is quite uncommon as a fall migrant along the immediate coast in the Carolinas. Thus, of interest were

singles at Conway, SC Aug. 14 (Gary Phillips) and Morehead City, NC Sept. 30 (John Fussell).

GOLDEN EAGLE: This species was well-reported during the fall. The most interesting was the presence of three at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Oct. 4 (John Sutton, *vide* Dwayne Martin), which provided the fourth sighting in that area since spring. Others included one heading south in the Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park, NC Sept. 17 (Reece Mitchell), singles from the Mt. Pisgah, NC hawk watch Sept. 27 & Oct. 13 (Bill Sanderson, Ray Sharpton), one at Alligator R. NWR, NC Nov. 16 (Bob Holmes), one over Caesar's Head, SC Nov. 12 (Jeff Catlin), and one at Isle of Palms Park, Charleston County, SC Nov. 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

MERLIN: Several inland sightings included one extremely early near New Bern, NC Aug. 20 (Al Gamache), one at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Sept. 7 (Steve Shultz), and one in Edgecombe County, NC Sept. 7 (Ricky Davis). The best count along the coast was the rather impressive total of 12 observed at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell, Rich Boyd).

YELLOW RAIL: This very elusive species was found twice this fall. One was at Bodie Is., NC Oct. 16 (Mike Skakuj), and two were flushed at North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 29 (John Fussell et al.).

SANDHILL CRANE: This fall's reports of Sandhill Crane came from the usual areas. Up to four were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC during late November (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, sev. obs.), three returned to the North R. area of Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Larry Lynch), one was at Horseshoe, Henderson County, NC Nov. 22 (Wayne Forsythe), and six were over Townville, SC Nov. 15 (Steve Patterson et al.).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER: The only inland report received was of one at the Tri-State Sod Farm, Newton Grove, NC Aug. 10 (Clyde Sorenson).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Golden-Plover sightings were down somewhat this year, when compared to the last several. In North Carolina, one was at the Cherry Hospital fields, Wayne County Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), six were at Hooper Lane Sept. 23 (Wayne Forsythe), one was at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 18 (Mike Skakuj) and Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis), and one was on Brown's Is. near Harker's Is. Nov. 12 (John Fussell). In South Carolina, one was at the Savannah Spoil Site Oct. 26 (Steve Calver) and 2-3 were at the Orangeburg Sod Farm Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent) and Sept. 13 (Robin Carter).

SNOWY PLOVER: South Carolina got its third Snowy Plover when one was on Deveau Bank Nov. 26-30 (Sidney Maddock et al.). Photographs document the bird nicely, which is the first fall report for the state. The first two reports most likely involved the same individual present at North Island two years running during the winters of '92 and '93.

WILSON'S PLOVER: The 25 Wilson's at C. Hatteras Point, NC Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd) provided an excellent count for so late in the season.

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER: An almost unbelievable total of 8000 Semipalmated Plovers was had at Ft. Fisher, NC Oct. 16, as noted by Greg

Massey. There hasn't been a report of numbers like this since Rowlett reported 15,000 from Pea Island in 1972!

AMERICAN AVOCET: Six in the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) were locally good finds. This species has been present in this somewhat inland area for a couple of years now.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: Numbers were down this fall, continuing a recent trend. The best counts were a peak of 13 at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Aug. 23 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), three at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), and three near North R., Carteret County, NC Aug. 10–17 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). Others included singles at Caswell, NC Aug. 8 (Rick Robinson), the New Hanover County Airport, Wilmington, NC Aug. 9 (Sam Cooper), the Manteo, NC airport Aug. 29 (Rich & Susan Boyd), and at the C. Hatteras campground, NC Oct. 26 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas). The latter bird was extremely late for the Carolinas, as this species is usually gone by late September.

WHIMBREL: Thirteen were found on Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC Nov. 12 (John Fussell et al.). This was a very good total for so late in the season. Also a "European" race Whimbrel was observed at Bogue Inlet, NC Nov. 12 (Greg Massey), providing about the fifth report for that state.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Long-billed Curlews were found in the usual places, with one at the Ocracoke, NC flats Aug. 19 (Sidney Maddock), one at the Portsmouth, NC flats Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Shackleford Banks, Carteret County, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell et al.), and three on Shackleford Nov. 6–12 (Fussell et al., sev. obs.). [Also, a correction is needed to a previous brief: the Long-billed Curlew reported from Pawleys Is., SC May 1 (Chat 67:3, p. 116) was observed by Bob Maxwell, not Jack Peachey.]

HUDSONIAN GODWIT: The only ones reported came from South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Aug. 7–9 (Paul Brubaker, sev. obs.) and Oct. 15–16 (Mike Skakuj, Lex Glover et al.).

SANDERLING: Only one inland report was received, that being a single bird at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Sept. 16 (J. B. Hines).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Reports were down considerably this fall in the Carolinas. Two were at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP Aug. 16–25 (Ramona Snively et al.), two were along Butler Bridge Rd., near Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Aug. 25 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), and one was at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent).

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One was quite early at Oregon Inlet, NC Oct. 19, as noted by John Wright and Eric Dean.

DUNLIN: The only inland Dunlin reported was one slightly late at Hooper Lane, NC Nov. 22 (Wayne Forsythe).

STILT SANDPIPER: Several inland reports were received this fall. Three were at the Winston-Salem, NC WTP Aug. 9–25 (Ramona Snively et al.), three were at the Tri-State Sod Farm, Newton Grove, NC Aug. 10 (Clyde Sorenson), two were at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth,

NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), and one was in Henderson County, NC Aug. 25 (Wayne Forsythe).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER: Numbers were down somewhat when compared to the last several fall seasons. Reports involved two at the Orangeburg, SC Sod Farm Sept. 8–22 (Nathan Dias et al.), two at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Sept. 13 (Steve Calver), one at the sound flats near Jockey's Ridge St. Pk., NC Sept. 19 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Bogue Inlet, NC Aug. 25 (Greg Massey), and two at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Sept. 7 (J. B. Hines).

RUFF: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, a first-winter Ruff was found at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 11 (Lex Glover et al.).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Inland Short-billeds included five at the agricultural research station fields near Plymouth, NC Aug. 9 (Ricky Davis), three in flight at Cheek Rd., Falls L., NC Aug. 24 (Davis), and three at the Slater Sod Farm, Tryon, NC Aug. 16 (J. B. Hines).

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: One was a good find at Portsmouth, NC Aug. 24 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas). At the Savannah Spoil Site, SC, the species was once again present for much of the fall, with the peak count being 18 on Aug. 14 (Steve Calver).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: Always a good find offshore, one was off Hatteras, NC Sept. 13 (Brian Patteson et al.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Noteworthy sightings from shore included one at Isle of Palms, Charleston County, SC Nov. 8 (Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman) and three at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott).

LONG-TAILED JAEGER: One was a complete surprise at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott). The individual, compared to several Parasitics in the area that day, was very late for the fall season.

LAUGHING GULL: Hurricane Isabel produced several reports of this species, with 70+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC and 10+ at L. Gaston, NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and one at Jordan L., NC Sept. 21 (Mike Skakuj). Elsewhere, inland reports involved singles at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Oct. 1 & Nov. 18 (Ricky Davis), and 500+ in fields near L. Phelps, NC Nov. 16 (Davis).

FRANKLIN'S GULL: There were many more reports than usual of this gull this fall. The first was a molting adult at Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 30 (Mike Denny, David Lindsey), a somewhat early date. An immature bird was at Mt. Pleasant, SC Nov. 1 (David Abbott, Nathan Dias), and one was on the beach at Frisco, NC Nov. 11 (Mary McDavit). The real news, though, was the "flock" of Franklin's at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this fall. The first one there was noted Sept. 28, then three were found Oct. 4, and then an impressive group of nine was observed Nov. 2 (Steve Calver, sev. obs.). This latter total was apparently one short of the record count for the Carolinas.

BONAPARTE'S GULL: One was quite early at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29, as noted by John Fussell.

GLAUCOUS GULL: A second-winter Glaucous was a good find at the Oregon Inlet, NC marina on the somewhat early date of Oct. 23 (Eloise Potter, Nell Barkley).

SABINE'S GULL: An immature Sabine's Gull was found on L. Norman, NC Sept. 25 (Taylor Piephoff, David Wright, Rob Van Epps), and then probably the same bird was at L. Hickory, NC Sept. 30–Oct. 7 (Dwayne Martin, m. obs.). This was only about the fourth inland report for the Carolinas of this rare migrant.

CASPIAN TERN: Six at Falls L., NC Sept. 6 (Ricky Davis) was the peak non-storm-related inland count received. Hurricane Isabel most likely helped produce counts of 10 at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) and 15 at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.). Elsewhere, a count of 411 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13 (Steve Calver) was easily a record count for the Carolinas. Also a good count for so late in the season was the 23 at C. Hatteras point, NC Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

ROYAL TERN: Inland Royals associated with Hurricane Isabel included 70+ at Roanoke Rapids L. and 20+ at L. Gaston Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), one at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), six at Falls L., NC Sept. 19 (Dan Kaplan), and one at Falls L., NC Sept. 19 (Will Cook).

SANDWICH TERN: Hurricane Isabel brought this species inland too. There were 10+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and singles at Falls L., NC (Will Cook) and the Goldsboro, NC WTP (Eric Dean), both on Sept. 19. Also a count of 300 at Barden's Inlet, Carteret County, NC Nov. 12 (John Fussell et al.) was quite impressive for November in North Carolina.

COMMON TERN: Inland Commons most likely associated with the passage of Hurricane Isabel involved 12 at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.), 10 at L. Auman, Moore County, NC Sept. 24 (Dick Dole), three at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), and two at Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

ARCTIC TERN: There were two reports of this rare fall migrant this fall. The first was brought inland to Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders) by Hurricane Isabel. The other was an adult seen well over North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 24 just before it headed out over the ocean (Eloise Potter, Nell Barkley). This latter sighting is very interesting since previous October reports from the Carolinas have been offshore, and there were no major storm systems near the time of observation to account for its appearance onshore.

FORSTER'S TERN: Hurricane Isabel produced the following inland reports: 30 at the Goldsboro, NC WTP Sept. 18 (Eric Dean), 20+ at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), four at Kerr L., NC Sept. 19 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and three at Jordan L., NC Sept. 20 (Josh Rose et al.). Other inland sightings included three at Falls L., NC Aug. 24 (Ricky Davis), four at Jordan L., NC Oct. 5 (Davis), and one at Jordan L. Nov. 9 (Dan Kaplan).

BRIDLED TERN: One was very rare inland at Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19 (Elisa Enders), due to Hurricane Isabel. Offshore counts were uneventful but the highest South Carolina total was 16 off Charleston Sept. 27 (Nathan Dias et al.).

SOOTY TERN: Off South Carolina the best count was 12 off Charleston Aug. 24 (Nathan Dias et al.). The North Carolina peak was an impressive 119 off Hatteras Aug. 2 (Brian Patteson et al.).

BLACK TERN: Some excellent counts of this species seemed to point to a better-than-average fall passage. Inland reports of note included 40 at L. Auman, Moore County, NC Sept. 24 (Dick Dole) following Hurricane Isabel, 17 at L. Hickory, NC Aug. 30 (Dwayne Martin), nine at L. Auman, NC Aug. 25 (Dole), seven at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Aug. 31 (Ricky Davis), five at Lookout Shoals L., NC Aug. 30 (Martin), and one at L. Julian, NC Sept. 1 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff). At the coast, the best count was the 334 at C. Romain NWR, SC Aug. 25 (Craig Watson). Also, one was somewhat late at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 8, as noted by Steve Calver.

BROWN NODDY: Two different individuals were good finds off of Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9–10 (Brian Patteson et al.). It had been about 12 years since the last report of this species in that state.

BLACK SKIMMER: Hurricane Isabel brought in one to Roanoke Rapids L., NC Sept. 19, as noted by Elisa Enders.

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: South Carolina had the only White-wingeds this fall, with singles at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Sept. 30 (Ritch Lilly) and in Eastwood, James Is. Oct. 31 until early Nov. (Dennis Forsythe, Nathan Dias, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman).

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: One found near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 on into the winter (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Charles Lynch, sev. obs.), was the first local record in over 20 years!

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: This elusive species was well reported this fall. In South Carolina, one was at Savannah NWR Sept. 9 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and one was at Simpsonville Oct. 6 (Pete Worthington). In North Carolina, singles were at Alligator R. NWR Aug. 29 (Rich & Susan Boyd), at L. Crabtree Park, Wake County Sept. 12 (*fide* Sandy Cash), at the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Island Sept. 20 (Clancy Ballenger), in central Nash County Sept. 25 (Ricky Davis), in southwestern Randolph County Oct. 11 (Jane Lewis), and at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 17 (Lex Glover et al.).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO: An impressive one-day count was the 11 Yellow-billeds seen at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (Rich Boyd et al.).

BARN OWL: A Barn Owl was found sick in a building along Reedy Creek Rd., Raleigh, NC Aug. 15 (Alvin Braswell). The bird was taken to the nearby NCSU Veterinary School where it was treated and then released back to the building Aug. 18. This is especially interesting since this species has not been found in the immediate Raleigh area for many years.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Only two were reported this fall, with singles being heard at Simpsonville, SC Oct. 14 (Pete Worthington) and Oconee St. Pk., SC Nov. 21 (Nathan Dias). The Simpsonville bird was most likely an early wandering individual or migrant.

GREEN VIOLET-EAR: North Carolina got its third documented Green Violet-ear when an adult was present at a feeder in Newland, Ashe County Oct. 5–11 (*fide* Susan Campbell; photographed by Wayne Forsythe, Keith Camburn).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: Unprecedented in the Carolinas was the appearance of two Calliopes simultaneously in the same yard. Charles and Judy Webb of Greer, SC hosted two immature Calliopes (one was eventually banded by Gary Phillips) Nov. 9–10. There was an immature Rufous Hummingbird present during this time also!

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER: This hard-to-find migrant was reported four times this fall, all from North Carolina. One was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County Aug. 24 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff), one was at Riverbend Park, Catawba County Sept. 6 (Dwayne Martin et al.), one was at McAlpine Park, Charlotte Sept. 7 (Taylor Piephoff), and one was at Black Mountain Sept. 25 (Stu Gibeau).

YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER: This *Empidonax* was well reported again this fall. From North Carolina, one was at Ellerbe Creek Greenway, Durham Sept. 6 (Dan Kaplan), one was at Hickory Sept. 18 (Dwayne Martin), one was found in Chatham County Sept. 20 (Will Cook), one was at Indian Trail Park, Durham Sept. 23 (Shelley Theye, Jill Froning), and three different individuals were located in Henderson County during the fall (Wayne Forsythe, sev. obs.). In South Carolina, one was found at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant Sept. 11 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore).

ALDER FLYCATCHER: One was identified by call and response to tape at Charleston, SC Oct. 1 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), providing a rare fall sighting of this tough-to-identify *empid*.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was identified at Falls L., NC Sept 15 (Brian Bockhahn). The identification was helped by the fact that the bird was singing and calling, an unusual event during fall migration.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: This *Empidonax* is one that can often be identified by visual characters as well as call. This fall Least's were found at Patriot's Pt., SC Sept. 10 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), at Simpsonville, SC Oct. 2 & 25 (Pete Worthington), and at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 19 (Will Cook, Brad Carlson et al.).

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Very unusual was the presence of two different Ash-throateds in the Carolinas during one season. This fall, one was found along the north dike of North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 8 (Jeff Lewis et al.) and another was located near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Charles Lynch). The latter bird was present on into the winter while the first one was a one-day wonder. These were about the eighth–ninth reports for North Carolina.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: There were five reports from North Carolina this fall. One was very early at Figure Eight Is. Aug. 24 (Derb Carter), one was on the Wagner Property, Happy Valley Sept. 19 (Dwayne Martin et al.), one was at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 16 (Mike Skakuj, Ricky Davis et al.), another was at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 19 (Skakuj), and one was at Ft. Fisher Oct. 22 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell).

GRAY KINGBIRD: Two were good finds at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 10, as noted by Harrol Blevins. It is very unusual to have more than one individual during the fall season.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: This fall's Scissor-tailed sightings consisted of singles at Stagecoach Rd., Catawba County, NC Sept. 20 (Dwayne Martin et al.) and at the north dike, North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 18 (*fide* Jeff Lewis). Both of these birds were wandering individuals that were not relocated the following day.

WARBLING VIREO: Warbling Vireos are rare fall migrants in the Carolinas; thus, of note were singles at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 10 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore), Simpsonville, SC Sept. 24 (Pete Worthington), and the Elizabethan Gardens, Roanoke Is., NC Oct. 15 (Jeff Lewis).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: The Philadelphia Vireo is much more common as a fall migrant than the Warbling is. This year reports were from mid-Sept. to early Oct. and came from across both Carolinas. The best one-day totals were three at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC Oct. 1 (Wayne Forsythe) and two at Asheville, NC Sept. 16 (Simon Thompson).

COMMON RAVEN: There were several reports from the I-85-I-40 corridor in central North Carolina again this fall. One to two were at Burlington, Alamance County Aug. 2 (Randy Emmitt), one was in the same general area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), and one was near Rougemont, Durham County Oct. 3 (Emmitt). These birds seem to range rather widely, and observers should be on the lookout in areas on both sides of the corridor in Alamance, Durham, and Orange Counties.

CLIFF SWALLOW: Rare offshore sightings of this swallow included singles off Oregon Inlet, NC Aug. 9 and Hatteras, NC Aug. 23 (Brian Patteson et al.).

CAVE SWALLOW: One was well seen at Magnolia Plantation, SC Nov. 30 (Perry Nugent et al.). Compared to last year, it was obvious that a major influx of this species did not occur this fall.

SEDGE WREN: Locally unusual were Sedge Wrens at Table Rock St. Pk., SC Sept. 30 (Scott Stegenga) and Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Oct. 22 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

NORTHERN WHEATEAR: North Carolina's fifth (second from the mountains) Northern Wheatear was a one-day wonder at Connestee Falls, Transylvania County Oct. 13 (Dick Blee, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). In the Carolinas, this species tends to stay on the move, the exception being the one at the C. Hatteras, NC campground during the fall of 1994 that stayed for a full month.

VEERY: One at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 5 (Jack Peachey, Bob Maxwell) was considered to be locally rare. The best count was the 20 heard during a pre-dawn count at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC at the entrance to Mt. Mitchell Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: At Ridge Junction Overlook, NC an impressive number of 50 was heard during a pre-dawn count, and 25 were seen later that morning in the same area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Elsewhere 20+ were seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 1 (Paul Champlin, Chris Mooreman).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Big numbers of migrating thrushes were in the Ridge Junction Overlook, NC area Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Numbers for this species included a pre-dawn count of 500+, and 200 were seen during the first three hours of daylight.

HERMIT THRUSH: One at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis) was somewhat early for a fall migrant. Elsewhere, a juvenile banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Aug. 29 (Rick Knight) was obviously from the local breeding population.

WOOD THRUSH: Ridge Junction Overlook, NC also had good numbers of this thrush Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). Fifty were heard during the pre-dawn count and 50 were seen during the following daylight hours that morning. Individuals at Table Rock St. Pk., SC (Scott Stegenga) and Myrtle Beach, SC (Jack Peachey), both Oct. 27, were considered to be rather late for migrants.

GRAY CATBIRD: An amazing total of 721 Catbirds was had at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13, as noted by Steve Calver. Not only was this a record high local count, it was probably a record count for the Carolinas!

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER: Golden-winged Warblers were reported more frequently than usual, an encouraging sign for this declining species. Quite impressive was the count of four at the Savannah River Site, SC Oct. 1 (Paul Champlin, Chris Mooreman). Other impressive counts included three at Indian Trail Park, Durham, NC Sept. 17 (Mike Skakuj) and three different birds along Ellerbe Creek, Durham, NC Sept. 12–15 (Dan Kaplan). Others noted included one at Hyde Park Rd., Charleston, SC Sept. 8 (Nathan Dias, Perry Nugent), one at Indian Trail Park, Durham, NC Sept. 21 (Rick Payne et al.), one at Simpsonville, SC Sept. 24 (Pete Worthington), and one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 30 (Dias).

TENNESSEE WARBLER: This species normally migrates through in good numbers in the fall, especially in the mountains. This year was no exception with counts involving 100+ Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin et al.) and 500+ Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis) at Ridge Junction Overlook, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC. Also, 377 were banded during the fall at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (Rick Knight). Along the coast, where much harder to find, Tennessees were at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Sept. 9 (Dennis Forsythe), Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 20 (Jack Peachey), Myrtle Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 23 (Peachey), and on Roanoke Is., NC Oct. 18 (Jeff Lewis). Also of

note was one at Townville, SC Nov. 2 (Jim Edwards, Jane Chew), being rather late.

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Locally unusual were singles at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), at the Wagner Property, Happy Valley, NC Sept. 21 (*fide* Dwayne Martin), and at the Vulture boat ramp, Roanoke Rapids L., NC Nov. 30 (Davis).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: This species was reported frequently this fall, with the most interesting sightings being three at South Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 19 (Brad Carlson, Will Cook et al.), three different birds on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 28, Oct. 3, and Oct. 14 (Jeff Lewis), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 13 (Steve Calver), one in east-central Orange County, NC Sept. 7 (Norm Budnitz), one along the Indian Trail Greenway, Durham, NC Sept. 22 (Tom & Janet Krakauer, Rick Payne), one at Bakers Mt. Park, Catawba County, NC Sept. 13 (*fide* Dwayne Martin), and one at Mahogany Rock, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis).

YELLOW WARBLER: One was quite late at L. Mattamuskeet, NC Nov. 21 (Mary McDavit et al.), in an area that has had late or lingering Yellows in the past.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: One seen at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 2 (Rick Knight) was very early. Usually the first arriving migrants appear in the Carolinas around the middle to latter part of September.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: An excellent one-day count of 100+ was had at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin, John Sutton).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: Another good count was the 23 Blackburnians at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27, as noted by Dwayne Martin and John Sutton. Also a total of five on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 6 (Jeff Lewis) was quite noteworthy for that coastal locality. One was very late and locally unusual at James Is., SC Oct. 31 (Nathan Dias).

BLACKPOLL WARBLER: This species tends to migrate toward the coast in the fall; thus, of note were several mountain reports. One was at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis), one was in Asheville, NC Oct. 2 (Simon Thompson), and two were banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Oct. 8 (Rick Knight). Elsewhere singles at McAlpine Park, Charlotte, NC (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and Roanoke Is., NC (Jeff Lewis), both Sept. 6, were quite early for this species, which normally doesn't show up until late September.

CERULEAN WARBLER: This species usually migrates through the Carolinas in August and early September; thus, of note were one at Mahogany Rock, Blue Ridge Parkway, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis) and one at L. Crabtree Park, Wake County, NC Sept. 23 (Clyde Sorenson).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: Very rare mountain reports involved one at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC Aug. 9 (Simon Thompson) and again Sept. 11–14 (Ron Selvey). One at the north dike of North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16–19 (Lex Glover et al.) was extremely late. This species is normally gone from the Carolinas by late September.

SWAINSON'S WARBLER: One was locally unexpected in a yard east of Greenville, NC Sept. 7 (Nick & Veronica Pantelidis).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: One at Pea Is. NWR, NC Nov. 22 (Jeff Lewis et al.) was somewhat late, although the species is a regular early November migrant in small numbers along the coast.

KENTUCKY WARBLER: Locally noteworthy sightings involved two on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 6 (Jeff Lewis), one at New Bern, NC Sept. 19 (Al Gamache), and one in northern Durham County, NC Oct. 7 (Tom & Janet Krakauer).

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: There were only three reports of Connecticut Warbler this fall, with one at Folly Beach, SC Sept. 7 (Nathan Dias, Donna Forsythe), one at Jordan L., NC Sept. 14 (Mike Skakuj), and one being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 25 (Rick Knight).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Wilson's Warblers were reported much more than normal this fall. They were found across the Carolinas, with the best counts being two in Alleghany County, NC Sept. 20 (Ricky Davis) and two at Pea Is. NWR, NC Sept. 29 (Jeff Lewis). The earliest included singles at Jackson Park, NC (Wayne Forsythe et al.) and in the Croatan Nat. For., NC (Will Cook), both Sept. 6. The latest was one at Southern Shores, Dare County, NC Oct. 5-6 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas).

CANADA WARBLER: This species gets harder to come by as one moves toward the coast. Thus of note were one on Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 24-25 (Jeff Lewis) and one at Edisto Beach St. Pk., SC Sept. 25 (Nathan Dias).

WESTERN Tanager: This western bird tends to turn up somewhere in the Carolinas every year. This fall one was found at C. Lookout, NC Sept. 29 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Tommy Wade, Rich Boyd).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: There were many reports of this sparrow again this fall. The best counts were the two at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Oct. 5-6 (Gary Phillips, Ritch Lilly, Burton Moore, sev. obs.), two at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 29 (Bruce Smithson, Greg Massey, Harry Sell), two at North R. farms, Carteret County, NC Nov. 23 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell), and up to eight different birds at Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 15-19 (Wings Over Water observers). Other notable coastal sightings included one at C. Lookout, NC Sept 29 (John Fussell et al.), one very early at Ft. Fisher, NC Sept. 9 (Smithson), and one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Oct. 5-13 (Steve Calver). Much rarer inland, singles were good finds in northern Edgecombe County, NC Nov. 2 (Ricky Davis) and at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Oct. 3 (Wayne Forsythe).

LARK SPARROW: The number of reports of this sparrow was about normal for the fall season. In North Carolina, coastal sightings included three at Ft. Fisher Sept. 24 (Bruce Smithson), one at C. Lookout Sept. 29 (John Fussell et al.), and one at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR Oct. 18 (Ricky Davis et al.). One was quite unusual inland at Mint Hill Park, Charlotte Sept. 8 (Taylor Piephoff). In South Carolina, two were at the Savannah Spoil Site Sept. 13 (Steve Calver), one was there Oct. 5 (Calver), and one was at Folly Beach Oct. 16 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott). One was inland at the

Orangeburg Sod Farm on the early date of Aug. 3, as noted by Tim Kalbach et al.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: The only report received was of four at the Savannah River Site, SC in early November (Paul Champlin).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: Migrants are rarely detected inland; thus, of note was one at McAlpine Park, Mecklenburg County, NC Oct. 14 (Taylor Piephoff).

FOX SPARROW: One was early at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Oct. 16 (Rick Knight). This sparrow normally arrives in the Carolinas in November.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This species was once again found throughout the Carolinas. The most interesting report involved one being banded at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC Sept. 1 (Rick Knight). This bird provided a new early date for the fall in the Carolinas. Others of note included four in Edgecombe County, NC Nov. 2 (Ricky Davis), one in Henderson County, NC Oct. 25 (Marilyn Westphal), one at Patriot's Pt., Mt. Pleasant, SC Oct. 16 & Nov. 1 (David Abbott, Craig Watson), one near Plymouth, NC Nov. 16 (Davis), and several in the Pea Is. NWR, NC area from Oct. 4 (Jeff Lewis) until at least Nov. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: Reports this fall included an excellent count of 20+ at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Nov. 19 (Wayne Forsythe), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Nov. 8 (Nathan Dias, David Abbott), and one at Ft. Fisher, NC Oct. 11 (Andy Webb et al.) being rather early.

SNOW BUNTING: Only two sightings, both from North Carolina's Outer Banks, were had this fall. One was at Pea Is. NWR Nov. 17 (Rick Knight) and two were at C. Hatteras point Nov. 18 (Pat Moore et al.).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK: This is a common migrant in the mountains during the fall season. The best count received was of 200+ at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Sept. 21 (Ricky Davis). One at a feeder on Emerald Isle, NC Nov. 2 (John Voigt) was somewhat late.

DICKCISSEL: This fall's sightings involved three near Townville, SC Nov. 23 (Nathan Dias), two at Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16 (Ricky Davis) and Nov. 22 (Jeff Lewis, William Stott), one at Roanoke Is., NC Sept. 15 (Lewis), one at Duck, NC Oct. 6 (Lewis), one at Pea Is. Oct. 5 (Lewis, Joan Kutulas), one at Nags Head, NC Oct. 25 (Skip Morgan, Lewis), and one at Jordan L., NC Oct. 5 (Davis).

BOBOLINK: One near North R., Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 (John Fussell) was very late. This species is normally gone from the Carolinas by late October.

RUSTY BLACKBIRD: One at the north end of Pea Is. NWR, NC Oct. 16 (Ricky Davis) was considered to be somewhat early. November is the usual time for Rusties to start showing up in the Carolinas.

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, several reports were of interest this fall. One in the C. Hatteras, NC campground Oct. 16–18 (Eric Dean, Taylor Piephoff et al.) was locally unusual and quite early. Also unusual was one at Savannah NWR, SC Nov. 22 (Carroll

Richard, Jerry Raymond). From the mountains, four at Hooper Lane, NC Nov. 10 (Wayne Forsythe) were good finds for that area.

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was found this fall, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Aug. 14–Sept. 13 (Steve Calver). This site has been the only regular area for this species the last several years.

PURPLE FINCH: Early arrivals were at Nags Head, NC Oct. 17 (Skip Morgan, Susan Campbell) and Ellerbe Creek, Durham County, NC Oct. 19 (Josh Rose). One wonders if this species will be present this winter in better numbers than the last several?

RED CROSSBILL: Reports of this finch are always noteworthy in the Carolinas. This fall's sightings involved 12 at Bald Knob Ridge, near Mt. Mitchell, NC Oct. 18 (Marilyn Westphal), 10+ all season at Carver's Gap, Roan Mt., NC (Rick Knight), 5–6 near Burrell's Ford and 9–10 near the Walhalla Fish Hatchery, both Oconee County, SC Nov. 22 (Nathan Dias), five near Crossnore, Avery County, NC Aug. 8 (Clyde Sorenson), and two at Ridge Junction Overlook, NC Aug. 27 (Dwayne Martin, John Sutton).

EVENING GROSBEAK: This species has been practically absent from the Carolinas for the last couple of years with only a couple of sightings being reported. This fall, a report of "two dozen" in western Granville County, NC Nov. 8 (*fide* Susan Campbell) was the only one received.

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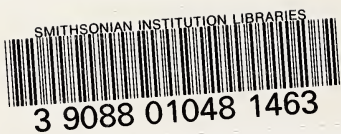
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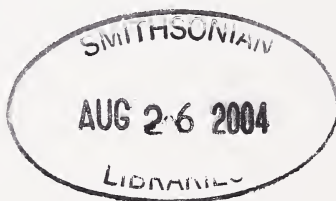
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Cover: First White Wagtail recorded in North Carolina. See page 78. Photo by Will Cook.

Fall 2003 North American Migration Count in South Carolina

Donna Slyce

321 Hope Ferry Road, Lexington, SC 29072

The Fall 2003 North American Migration Count (NAMC) was held on September 20, 2003. In South Carolina, 31,931 individual birds of 202 species were tallied by 91 individual counters in 59 parties in 11 counties across the state. Both minimum and maximum temperatures for the day across the state were slightly above normal. The cool spots were Cherokee and Spartanburg Counties, with both reporting a low of 56° F before sunrise. The hot spots were Sumter County reporting 90° F in the mid-afternoon and Lexington County reporting 90° F in the late afternoon. There was no rain reported statewide on count day, and skies were mostly clear in most localities. Both Charleston and Chester reported early morning fog. Chester skies had cleared by sunrise, but Charleston reported clouds through noon. The only other area reporting significant clouds was Jasper County, which reported mostly cloudy skies throughout the day. Jasper and Aiken County both reported Beaufort scale 2 winds for several periods during the day, but winds were relatively calm statewide.

While the biannual NAMC summary usually compares previous count totals to the current count totals, this summary will venture into something a bit riskier – a brief look at how the Fall 2003 NAMC illustrates some general distribution trends in the state of South Carolina. The numbers of two species that have declined in Florida continue to rise, albeit haltingly and slowly, in South Carolina. Both Painted Bunting and Wood Stork, generally considered target birds for out-of-state birders visiting Florida, were reported from several counties for the Fall 2003 NAMC: The three counties of Aiken, Georgetown, and Jasper reported Painted Bunting, amassing a total of 11 individuals. Perhaps the most surprising of these three is Aiken, an inland county. Painted Buntings have colonized the state from the immediate coast inland to the Upper Coastal Plain, but it is still much easier to find them on the coast than to find them inland. Wood Storks are now rare but regular breeders in South Carolina, including a site in Aiken County. None of the counties reporting Wood Storks is a surprise. Nonetheless, there are four counties reporting Wood Storks, all of them areas where Wood Stork has become almost expected over the past decade. Two of those four counties, Jasper and Georgetown, reported more than 100 individuals each. It is a fortunate and heartening development for a species in trouble.

Because the dates for the NAMC usually fail to coincide with the peaks of migration in South Carolina, the count only occasionally logs a significant wave of migrants. In 1999, the fall count tallied a wave of thrush migration, with three contiguous counties reporting good numbers of *Catharus* thrushes detected by nocturnal listening. This fall's count tallies a wave of warbler

migration. A total of 39 Tennessee Warblers was reported statewide from four counties – Aiken, Cherokee, Greenville, and Marlboro. Though the majority of these birds were from Greenville County where habitat and elevation make the area the most likely to have the species as a migrant, the numbers are still high and add up to a small wave of migrants. Also interesting was the total of 20 Yellow Warblers reported from the state. Charleston, Georgetown, Jasper, and Spartanburg Counties all reported this species, with the majority of birds reported from Charleston and Jasper. Finding a Yellow Warbler in the Lowcountry in the fall is no mean feat. Finding multiple Yellow Warblers in the Lowcountry in the fall is almost amazing. The third warbler species showing a wave is an uncommon migrant in the state, so the numbers are unimpressive. Five counties reported six Northern Waterthrushes. Quite often the fall count tallies only one Northern Waterthrush. The five counties reporting Northern Waterthrush were Aiken, Charleston, Jasper, Marlboro, and Spartanburg, displaying the widespread dispersal of the species in migration.

Among the widespread species reported from every county were: Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Northern Mockingbird, Killdeer, Red-bellied Woodpecker, and Downy Woodpecker. The most numerous of the widespread species in the fall count of 2003 was Mourning Dove, with a tally of 964 individuals reported. The second most numerous among the widespread species was Northern Cardinal, with 639 individuals reported. Northern Mockingbird and Killdeer were the third and fourth most numerous of the widespread species, with 275 individuals and 204 individuals reported respectively. Among species with high numbers of individuals but a limited distribution, Western Sandpiper, reported from the two counties of Jasper and Georgetown, totaled 4328 individuals. Second is a sp? designation, peep sp?, with 4000 individuals reported from Jasper County. Semipalmated Sandpiper, again reported from the two counties of Georgetown and Jasper, totaled 1095 individuals. For this count, there was little overlap of widespread and numerous. European Starling is the only species that is both numerous (at greater than 1000 individuals reported) and widespread (reported from 10 of 11 surveyed counties).

Among the highlights of the Fall 2003 NAMC are Purple Gallinule and American White Pelicans in Jasper County, Alder Flycatchers in Greenville County, Barn Owl in Chester County, Common Tern in Georgetown County, Canada Warbler and Orange-crowned Warbler in Spartanburg County, and Gray-cheeked Thrush in Marlboro County.

Even beyond these highlights there are two stand-outs that simply deserve separate mention. One of these stand-outs is the five Roseate Spoonbills found in Jasper County. One Roseate Spoonbill, if accessible on public lands, is worthy of a Rare Bird Alert. A count of five birds is simply mind-boggling. The second of these stand-outs is a Lark Sparrow, reported from Charleston County and documented with nice video stills. Lark Sparrow is another species worthy of a Rare Bird Alert.

56 species were “exclusives”, found only in one county. The exclusives are distributed as follows:

Table 1. Number of county exclusives.

Aiken	7
Charleston	7
Chester	1
Georgetown	7
Greenville	7
Jasper	14
Marlboro	1
Spartanburg	7
Sumter	1

County Summaries

Aiken County (AIKE): 108 species, 3162 individuals.

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906
706-793-2788

Participants: Haven Barnhill, Laurel Moore-Barnhill, Dorie Brennenman, Dan Connelly, Lee Dane, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Gene Howard, Paul Koehler, Gabe Paradise, Elizabeth Peacock, Lois Stacey, Anne Waters, Calvin Zippler

As they have in every other NAMC, Aiken tallied a solid count, with a good number of exclusives. Species reported exclusively by Aiken County included American Black Duck, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Blue-headed Vireo, lingering Hermit Thrush, Nashville Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, and Rusty Blackbird. The Nashville Warbler was an excellent find.

Charleston County (CHAR): 111 species, 2658 individuals.

Coordinator: Perry Nugent
2260 Dallerton Circle
Charleston, SC 29414
843-556-3841

Participants: Edward Conradi, Sandra Conradi, Perry Nugent

As well as the previously mentioned stand-out Lark Sparrow, Charleston County’s exclusives included Reddish Egret, Least Bittern, Sora, Marsh Wren, Savannah Sparrow, and Orchard Oriole. Other interesting birds from Charleston for this count were a number of duck species. Among the ducks were Green-winged Teal, Mottled Duck, and Ruddy Duck.

Cherokee County (CHER): 45 species, 428 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane

Spartanburg, SC 29307

864-585-1228

Participants: Claude Cobb, Ken Garrett, Carolyn Hanes, Karla Lavender, Dick Lavender, Tina Pearsall, Alan Rose

Along with the previously mentioned Tennessee Warblers, Cherokee County also reported Magnolia Warbler and Chestnut-sided Warbler, a nice albeit small wave of migrant warblers for the county.

Chester County (CHES): 40 species, 399 individuals.

Coordinator: Gail B. Ice
2356 Arabian
York, SC 29445
803-684-3242

Participants: Gail B. Ice

In keeping with a long-held tradition for Chester County migration counts, Chester County reported Barn Owl, an exclusive for the state. Chester County, along with Cherokee County, also reported Song Sparrow, most likely individuals from breeding populations in the counties.

Georgetown County (GEOR): 82 species, 2332 individuals.

Coordinator: Jack Peachey
103 Walnut Circle
Conway, SC 29526
843-347-5810

Participants: Bill Lanaham, Ritch Lilly, Jack Peachey, Paul Rogers

Great Black-backed Gull, the previously mentioned Common Tern, Piping Plover, Willet, American Oystercatcher, Red Knot, and Seaside Sparrow were the exclusives reported from Georgetown County. While most are regulars at Huntington Beach State Park, Great Black-backed Gull, Piping Plover and Seaside Sparrow are always nice birds to find in South Carolina.

Greenville County (GREE): 83 species, 1314 individuals.

Coordinator: Peter L. Worthington
716 North Almond Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-967-4183

Participants: Billy Fuller, Elizabeth Galloway, Len Kopka, Rosalind McClam, Eric McFalls, Bob Maxwell, Hilda Reese, Mac Sharpe, Donna Slyce, Martha Statton, Charles Webb, Judy Webb, Peter Worthington

While most of Greenville County's exclusives are summer resident breeders, including Black-throated Green Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco, and Common Raven, several of the Greenville County exclusives are excellent finds. Alder Flycatcher, another Greenville exclusive and identified by sound according to documentation submitted, is a nice catch. Another species reported exclusively by Greenville County, American Woodcock has rarely, if ever, been reported on a NAMC for South Carolina. The counts occur outside of the season that the species is most easily found. Greenville's last

two exclusives were Rose-breasted Grosbeak, always a nice migrant to find, and Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Jasper County (JASP): 97 species, 15,371 individuals.

Coordinator: Pat Metz
1000 Business Center Drive, Suite 10
Savannah Georgia 31405
912-652-4415

Participants: Daniel Amairs, Tom Arndt, Jeremy Bucher, Steve Calver, Jack Colcolough, William Friedman, Susan Friedman, Joseph Lyons, Pat Metz, Emily Mulcahy, Ray Porter, Mary Ann Putnam, Richard Swift, Henry Swift, Jane Swift

Jasper added an exceptional number of exclusives to the tally for this count including a somewhat early Common Loon, Purple Gallinule, hard-to-find Long-billed Dowitcher, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Bank Swallow, the previously mentioned Roseate Spoonbill, Glossy Ibis, Common Ground-Dove, Black-necked Stilt, American Coot, migrating Black Tern, American White Pelican, Stilt Sandpiper, and American Avocet. The presence of American White Pelican on the South Carolina coast from late summer through late winter is a recent phenomenon and has become frequent enough to be almost expected in season.

Lexington County (LEXI): 55 species, 843 individuals.

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail Road
Lexington, SC 29072
803-359-6280

Participants: Molly Bonnell, Doug Catoe, Barbara Darden

Lexington County reported a high number of Wood Duck, a nice-to-find Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Bobwhite. Northern Bobwhite has grown far less common than it used to be. Migrant Scarlet Tanagers were also a nice find in Lexington County.

Marlboro County (MARL): 77 species, 1149 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 E. Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-788-8820

Participants: Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman

In part because of nocturnal listening, Marlboro County reported a nice sample and numbers of brown-backed thrushes including Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Swainson's Thrush. Gray-cheeked Thrush was a statewide exclusive from Marlboro County. Other nice finds in Marlboro County included the previously mentioned Northern Waterthrush, Wood Thrush found during daylight hours, and House Wren. A majority of the high numbers of Barred Owl reported by Marlboro County were also found during nocturnal listening.

Spartanburg County (SPAR): 91 species, 1882 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: George Banks, Norma Banks, Susan Bennett, Tim Brown, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Glenn Englehardt, Joel Jones, Herb Kay, Edwin Marotte, Angela Miller, Margaret Miller, Jim Miller, Moss Miller, Sam Miller, Nancy Owens, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Doug Rayner, Leland Rayner, Laurel Sullivan, Gerald Thurmond, M. B. Ulmer, Dan Wooten, Nancy Wooten

A pair of nice-to-find warblers, Canada Warbler and a somewhat early Orange-crowned Warbler, were among the exclusives in Spartanburg County. Also exclusive to Spartanburg County were Whip-poor-will, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Purple Finch.

Sumter County (SUMT): 71 species, 2392 individuals.

Coordinator: Lloyd Moon
6150 Brookland Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
803-494-3234

Participants: Lloyd Moon, Ward Moon

The tally from Sumter County included an exclusive for the state, Horned Lark, and two excellent migrant warblers, Palm Warbler and Blue-winged Warbler. Sumter County also reported Least Sandpiper, an excellent bird to find as far inland as Sumter, and Pectoral Sandpiper, a fine "sod farm" bird to report.

Table 2. North American Migration Count in South Carolina 20 September 2003

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Canada Goose	47		2	37		37		45	75	191	300	734	8
Wood Duck	16	273	2	2		19	10	33	12		1	368	9
American Black Duck	2											2	1
Mallard	22			5		9	14		24	77	27	178	7
Mottled Duck		2					66					68	2
Blue-winged Teal	12	44			19		778		10			863	5
Northern Shoveler					3		702					705	2
Green-winged Teal		2					6					8	2
Ruddy Duck		1					147					148	2
Wild Turkey	3		5			2	32			10		52	5
Northern Bobwhite	5	6						2	3			16	4
Common Loon							1					1	1
Pied-billed Grebe	1	163		1	2		23				3	193	6
American White Pelican							60					60	1
Brown Pelican		16			87							103	2
Double-crested Cormorant	1				5		62		3		1	72	5
Anhinga	7	20					26		6		2	61	5
Least Bittern		8										8	1
Great Blue Heron	6	35		2	6	5	4	2	5	18	8	91	10
Great Egret	7	74	2	2	10		34	1	66	1	1	196	9
Snowy Egret		63			8		85		32			188	4

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Little Blue Heron	5	57			2		11		43		1	119	6
Tricolored Heron		29			11		13					53	3
Reddish Egret		1										1	1
Cattle Egret	128	12					6		23		133	302	5
Green Heron	5	4		1	1	3	5		1	3		23	8
Black-crowned Night-Heron		4					4					8	2
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron							2					2	1
White Ibis		154					5				4	163	3
Glossy Ibis							6					6	1
Roseate Spoonbill							5					5	1
Wood Stork	4	21			105		146					276	4
Black Vulture	7	2	30	2		3	2	7	20	2		75	9
Turkey Vulture	22	12	6	12		11	27	2	36	12	61	201	10
Osprey	2	1		1	12		6			1	2	25	7
Bald Eagle	2	2			1		1				1	7	5
Northern Harrier							1				3	4	2
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1		1					5	3
Cooper's Hawk	1					3	1					5	4
Red-shouldered Hawk	21	11		3		2	1	1	6	8	5	57	7
Broad-winged Hawk		1				26				1		28	3
Red-tailed Hawk	5	1	4	7		6	4	2	5	9	3	46	10
American Kestrel	4	1	1	1				1	1	1	11	21	8
Merlin		1			1							2	2
Peregrine Falcon						3	1					4	2

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
raptor sp?						1						1	1
Clapper Rail		22			9							31	2
King Rail	1						2					3	2
Sora		3										3	1
Purple Gallinule							1					1	1
Common Moorhen		250			8		82	5				345	4
American Coot							18					18	1
Black-bellied Plover		80			44		1					125	3
Semipalmated Plover		6			279		102					387	3
Piping Plover					7							7	1
Killdeer	39	1	2	6	4	12	46	5	2	16	71	204	11
American Oystercatcher					42							42	1
Black-necked Stilt							7					7	1
American Avocet							164					164	1
Greater Yellowlegs		12			17		50					79	3
Lesser Yellowlegs	2				17		189					208	3
Solitary Sandpiper	4									2		6	2
Willet					14							14	1
Spotted Sandpiper					4		3			3		10	3
Ruddy Turnstone		8			37							45	2
Red Knot					57							57	1
Sanderling		27			43							70	2
Semipalmated Sandpiper					53		1042					1095	2
Western Sandpiper					74		4254					4328	2

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Least Sandpiper	23	2			94		879				1	999	5
Pectoral Sandpiper		2					53				1	56	3
Stilt Sandpiper							89					89	1
peep sp?							4000					4000	1
Short-billed Dowitcher					219		1					220	2
Long-billed Dowitcher							1					1	1
dowitcher sp?							285					285	1
American Woodcock						4						4	1
Laughing Gull		62			28		110					200	3
Ring-billed Gull		18			6		1					25	3
Herring Gull		1			6							7	2
Great Black-backed Gull					1							1	1
Gull-billed Tern		1					1					2	2
Caspian Tern		1			72		116					189	3
Royal Tern		68			417		12					497	3
Sandwich Tern		18			151							169	2
Common Tern					2							2	1
Forster's Tern		30			16		36					82	3
Black Tern							21					21	1
Black Skimmer		6			129		52					187	3
Rock Pigeon	33		1			27	1					340	8
Eurasian Collared-Dove	1							7		31	233	1	1
Mourning Dove	234	65	22	60	9	54	103	92	17	80	228	964	11
Common Ground-Dove						6						6	1

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	21		3				1		3		4	32	5
Barn Owl				2								2	1
Eastern Screech-Owl	4				1	5		3	2			15	5
Great Horned Owl	4	1		7	1	4						17	5
Barred Owl	9	10		5		3		10		1		38	6
Common Nighthawk	14					2		1		2		19	4
Whip-poor-will										1		1	1
Chimney Swift	126	10	2		4	154		5	19	421	87	829	10
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	22	5	2		1	30	2	6		33	7	108	9
Belted Kingfisher	10	8		6	1	5	2	1	2	10	5	50	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	19					8	1		1	11	5	45	6
Red-bellied Woodpecker	50	15	2	8	6	17	2	21	13	20	2	156	11
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker										1		1	1
Downy Woodpecker	21	11	2	2	1	14	2	8	11	13	2	87	11
Hairy Woodpecker	4					2		1	1			8	4
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	7	12										19	2
Northern Flicker	7					2		9	3	16	1	38	6
Pileated Woodpecker	26	21	2	1		11	1	5	8	7		82	9
Eastern Wood-Pewee	19	3	1		1	5		1	1	13	1	45	9
Acadian Flycatcher	2	1				2			4	1		10	5
Alder Flycatcher						2						2	1
empidonax sp?						2	1					1	1
Eastern Phoebe	2		1	2		4		3		10		22	6
Great Crested Flycatcher	5	1								1	2	9	4

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	19	5			2					3	3	3	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	41	8	3	2	1	40	1	3		5	3	38	7
Eastern Bluebird	2					1		20	3	31	12	161	10
Veery									6			9	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush									4			4	1
Swainson's Thrush						9			16	3		28	3
Hermit Thrush	2											2	1
Wood Thrush						1			4	1		6	3
American Robin			18			46				83	30	177	4
Gray Catbird	8	1	8		1	2	9	6	2	9	1	47	10
Northern Mockingbird	61	37	7	12	17	7	8	22	48	21	35	275	11
Brown Thrasher	13	2	2		7	6	8	12	7	15	2	74	10
European Starling	139	26	120	28		155	144	52	41	75	291	1071	10
Blue-winged Warbler	1										1	2	2
Tennessee Warbler	2		6			27				4		39	4
Orange-crowned Warbler										1		1	1
Nashville Warbler	1											1	1
Northern Parula	42	3						1	3	2	6	57	6
Yellow Warbler		10			1		7			2		20	4
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2		4			7				4		17	4
Magnolia Warbler	3		2			2			1	6		14	5
Cape May Warbler						2				5		7	2
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1					1						2	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler										1		1	1

Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird
Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
Blue-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Black-throated Blue Warbler
Yellow-rumped Warbler

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Black-throated Green Warbler						2						2	1
Blackburnian Warbler						1				1		2	2
Yellow-throated Warbler										1		10	4
Pine Warbler	5	1	3								1	169	9
Prairie Warbler	69	38	5	8	6			20	5	17		10	5
Palm Warbler	1	1			4		3		1			31	5
Black-and-white Warbler	3	16			6		5				1	20	6
American Redstart	6	2			3	5				3	1	63	10
Prothonotary Warbler	22	1	6		4	11	1	1	4	9	4	2	2
Worm-eating Warbler	1	1				2			1	1		4	3
Ovenbird	1	1				1				2		5	4
Northern Waterthrush	1	2					1		1	1		6	5
Common Yellowthroat	7	25	3		11	1	8		11	4		70	8
Hooded Warbler						1			2	1		4	3
Canada Warbler										1		1	1
Summer Tanager	18	2			2			1	5	5	4	37	7
Scarlet Tanager						5		2	3	1		11	4
Eastern Towhee	31	4	2	10	4	12		12	15	18		108	9
Chipping Sparrow	7	3	4			4		2		6		26	6
Field Sparrow			6	3		2				7		18	4
Lark Sparrow		1										1	1
Savannah Sparrow		12										12	1
Seaside Sparrow					2							2	1
Song Sparrow			6	2						5		13	3

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT	Total Birds	No. of Counties
Dark-eyed Junco	171	125	6	12	17	44	10	86	65	59	44	639	11
Northern Cardinal						5						5	1
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	11	2				1			8		1	23	5
Blue Grosbeak	53	1	3			4	1		8	4	4	78	8
Indigo Bunting	3				3		5					11	3
Painted Bunting						1	10		5			66	4
Bobolink	245	82		20	2		33		1	16	5	383	6
Red-winged Blackbird	5									1	2	29	5
Eastern Meadowlark	200											200	1
Rusty Blackbird	81	64	30		6	70			28	23	11	307	7
Common Grackle		19		12			31					56	3
Boat-tailed Grackle								90	36	6	400	544	5
Brown-headed Cowbird		1										1	1
Orchard Oriole	1											1	1
Baltimore Oriole										8		8	1
Purple Finch	11	20	2			4		22	3	11	6	79	8
House Finch	19					37		3	2	40		101	5
American Goldfinch	79	2		10		12		6	7	4	2	122	8
House Sparrow							1					1	1
sparrow sp?													
Species	109	111	46	40	82	84	97	55	78	92	70	202	
Individuals	3162	2658	428	399	2332	1315	15,371	843	1149	1882	2392	31,931	

	AIKE	CHAR	CHER	CHES	GEOR	GREE	JASP	LEXI	MARL	SPAR	SUMT
Observers	14	3	7	1	3	3	13	3	2	27	2
Parties	7	2	6	1	4	4	12	3	1	19	1
Hours foot	31	15.5	7.5	3	15.25	17.5	4	1	0	26	6.75
Hours car	15.75	10.5	8	5.75	2	8	22	13	10	7	4.5
Hours boat	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.5	0
Miles foot	14.5	8	8	4.8	9.75	25	3	1	0	12	3.5
Miles car	200	64	158	85	38.25	324	66	149	105	214	120
Miles boat	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Hours feeder watch	1.75	0	9.5	0	0	8	0	1	0	19	0
#Feeder watchers	2	0	5	0	0	4	0	2	0	13	0
#Feeder stations	4	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	0	8	0
Hours stationary	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	4	0	0	0
#Parties stationary	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
#Observers stationary	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	0	0
Hours owling	1.5	1	0	1.25	0	3.25	0	1	0.5	3	0
Miles owling	6.5	1	0	1	0	0	0	5	10	1	0
#Parties owling	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	2	0
#Observers owling	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	0
Time start	05:45	05:00	NR	05:45	06:30	04:45	06:50	05:45	06:05	NR	06:40
Time stop	20:00	19:00	NR	13:45	17:00	19:00	18:00	18:10	17:15	NR	17:50
Temperature	57	60	56	62	-	-	-	60	63	56	63
Pre-dawn	64	62	-	64	70	60	70	-	63	-	63
Dawn	74	72	-	70	-	-	75	-	70	-	67
AM	81	76	-	80	75	-	85	86	88	-	85
Noon											

Pre-dawn

Dawn

AM

Noon

General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

First Record of White Wagtail in North Carolina

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On 22 October 2002, at 12:20 pm Karen Bearden and Jill Froning discovered a wagtail along the edge of Falls Lake at the Swim Beach section of Sandling Beach State Recreation Area, Wake County, NC. Our first thought, when viewing the bird without binoculars, was that it might be a Spotted Sandpiper, because the most striking feature was that the bird continuously bobbed its tail. However, with a view through binoculars, the bird seemed to be the approximate size, color, and shape of a Northern Mockingbird. When the bird turned, we saw that the breast had a black V-pattern resembling that of a meadowlark and a unique facial pattern. Jill realized it might be a wagtail (*Motacilla* sp.), but without a field guide, the identity was uncertain. We called Joe Bearden at work to tell him about our exciting find and asked him to consult his field guide as we described the

* The note co-authored by Charles W. (Will) Cook was edited by Kent Fiala.

field marks to him. This exchange led us to the conclusion that we most likely had a White Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), probably a first-fall bird. We left Sandling Beach at 1 pm to join a Partners In Flight meeting where we knew there would be other birders and field guides to help confirm the sighting. A look at Sibley (2000) confirmed the bird's identification as a White Wagtail! Karen motioned Will Cook and Jeff Pippen out of the meeting to tell them about the rare, surprise sighting.

We returned to Sandling Beach at 2 pm and were thrilled to see the bird was still present! Fortunately, Will had his Nikon CoolPix 995 digital camera and was able to take over 100 photographs through Jill's Swarovski AT-80 HD scope for documentation of the bird. Others were alerted by phone and through the Carolinabirds email group. The wagtail was cooperative, giving everyone great views as it worked its way back and forth along the shoreline until dusk. By the end of the day 20 people had observed the White Wagtail.



Figure 1. The White Wagtail stretching, showing that the two outermost rectrices are white while the rest are black. The wing coverts are black-based with pale buff edges. The lack of a dark line in front of the eye helps eliminate Black-backed Wagtail and most races of White Wagtail. Photos by Will Cook.

Physical Description

The overall appearance of the wagtail was gray, white, and black, with a tinge of creamy-yellowish around the face. It had a long black tail with the two outermost rectrices white, black upper tail coverts, gray rump, white

under tail coverts, dark legs, medium-sized black bill, black eye, clean face with faint line behind the eye, creamy-whitish lores, white supercilium, faint black edge on the forecrown above the supercilium, gray-hooded appearance (light forecrown contrasting with a gray crown and nape), pale buffy-white auriculars, faint dark subauricular stripe, pale creamy throat, white breast with thick black V-shaped breast band, white belly with light gray wash on side and flanks, gray mantle and scapulars, dark greater coverts with pale, buffy edges forming two wing bars, blackish remiges with pale edges.

Behavior, Habitat, Taxonomy, and Identification

The bird's behavior impressed us as being different from that of any other species in our experience. The wagtail actively foraged along the shore – running, sometimes darting a short distance after flies, with head down and body horizontal, then standing upright, bobbing its tail, until darting for another fly. Occasionally it hopped up to catch insects in the air like a flycatcher. There were brief moments when the bird stopped and stood still.

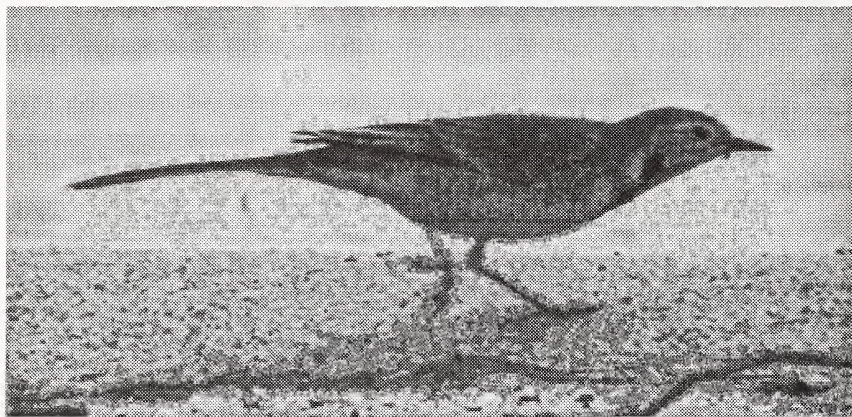


Figure 2. A very active feeder, the bird spent its time chasing and catching small flies along the shoreline. More photographs of the bird are available online at <http://www.duke.edu/~cwcook/pix/whitewagtail.html>

The wagtail was first seen on the southeast side of the beach. It worked its way along the shore, actively foraging until it reached the northwest side, then reversing directions and turning back toward the southeast side. It continued walking or running back and forth along the shoreline through the end of the day. At one point when a Red-tailed Hawk flew overhead, the wagtail flew out over the water, making a single call note, then settled back down in the same area of the beach. The vocalization was a short, two-syllable metallic call described as “tzic-tzic” or “ji-jeet.” When a Merlin flew in and perched on a snag close by, the wagtail stopped moving and remained motionless until the Merlin flew away. As it started getting dark, the wagtail

preened. Near dusk, the last two observers saw the wagtail fly away, making about three spirals, higher and higher and flying away to the northeast. Despite an extensive search by many people on subsequent days, the bird was not seen thereafter.

Wagtails spend most of the time on the ground, “where they walk and run actively, constantly moving the tail up and down in a very characteristic manner. The mainly insect food is secured chiefly on the ground or in shallow water or in little aerial excursions after flies or gnats” (Bent 1965).

The area where the wagtail was seen is a narrow, 175-meter long artificial sandy beach along the edge of a large man-made lake. The beach has grasses on both ends and is surrounded by Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*) forest. Wagtails are generally found in open country, around farms, buildings, and cultivations, but prefer areas near ponds, streams, and open water (Bent 1965).

Identification of wagtails can be problematic because of great similarities in plumage, especially in immatures. We identified our bird as an immature (in first basic plumage) because it lacked the black cap and extensive white wing panels that winter-plumaged adults of both Black-backed Wagtail (*M. lugens*) and White Wagtail (*M. alba*) possess. Key features that identify this bird as a White Wagtail instead of the similar Black-backed are the lack of an obvious dark line in front of the eye, the narrow edging on the wing coverts instead of a white wing patch, and the dark-based secondaries (Pyle 1997).

White Wagtail is divided into several subspecies. The Siberian *M. a. ocularis* is the most likely to occur in North Carolina based on the pattern of distribution of past records. It breeds as close as western Alaska, and has been recorded several times in California and once in South Carolina (Behrens 1998). However, the lack of a distinct dark line in front of the eye in our bird eliminates this subspecies. The Pied Wagtail (*M. a. yarrellii*) of Europe also lacks the dark line in front of the eye, but should have distinct mottling on the crown by early October, grayer flanks, and a black upper rump, while our bird had an unmottled crown and a gray rump. Two subspecies have the combination of gray rump and pale lores – the nominate *M. a. alba* of western Europe and *M. a. baicalensis* of Asia. Per Alström, author of *Pipits and Wagtails* (Alström and Mild 2003) saw the photos and commented that “the bird is either *Motacilla alba alba* or *M. alba baicalensis* (these two are indistinguishable in this plumage, but [the] former [is] probably more likely in N. Carolina). As far as I can tell it’s a first-winter bird, probably a female (sexing of first-winter’s is generally not possible, but a bird with so little dark on the crown is more likely to be a female than a male” (pers. comm.). Will Cook posted a query on the Frontiers of Field ID email group asking for opinions on the subspecific identification of the wagtail. The consensus from the twelve replies was that the bird belonged to the nominate subspecies, *M. a. alba*.

Significance

This is the first record of White Wagtail for North Carolina (NC Bird Records Committee, 2003). North Carolina also has a record of Black-backed Wagtail, documented on 15 May 1982 at Cedar Island, Carteret County by John Fussell and Bob Holmes (NC Bird Records Committee, 1990). Black-backed Wagtail was formerly considered to be a subspecies of White Wagtail, and some still consider it to be (e.g., Alström and Mild 2003). In South Carolina, an adult male White Wagtail of the Siberian subspecies (*M. a. ocularis*) was documented at Huntington Beach State Park around the perimeter of a pond on 16–21 April 1998 (Behrens 1998).

The Falls Lake bird was accepted as the nominate European subspecies *M. a. alba* by the NC Bird Records Committee (2003). Though there is a documented record of an adult *M. a. alba* in Quebec on 4 May 2002, as well as a report from Newfoundland on 14 September 1998 (Savard 2002), this is likely the first individual of the nominate subspecies documented for the United States (Sibley, pers. comm.).

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Winter 2003–2004, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

FULVOUS WHISTLING-DUCK: One found on Bulls Island during the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 4 (Nathan Dias et al.) provided the only report for the Carolinas this winter.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: There were good numbers of this species present in the Carolinas this winter. The best counts included 22 at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 3 through at least Feb. 20 (Steve Calver,

m. obs.), up to 20 at Bear Island WMA, SC Jan. 29 (George and Judy Halleron), 10 at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Feb. 22 (Nathan Dias), nine in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5 to Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, Mike Turner, sev. obs.), and up to 10 at L. Mattamuskeet NWR Dec. 29 to Jan. 24 (Derb Carter, Ricky Davis, Keith Camburn).

SNOW GOOSE: This species was reported from both states at scattered localities. A couple of the more interesting sightings were the 13 on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Carol Williamson) and one at Bass L., Watauga County, NC Feb. 10 (Bob Cherry).

ROSS'S GOOSE: As usual, the best counts came from eastern North Carolina with eight on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan) and five on the Pettigrew St. Pk. CBC Dec. 29 (Scott Hartley, Mike Dunn). Other sightings, always noteworthy, included two at Winthrop L., Rock Hill, SC Dec. 9–17 (David Collopy, Faye Metzl, John Buckman), one on the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Wayne and Ralph Covington), one in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5–Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, sev. obs.), and one near Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 18 until at least Feb. 22 (Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.).

“RICHARDSON'S” CANADA GOOSE: Three individuals of this small race of Canada Goose were found on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29. One was observed in flight (Ricky Davis, Don Temple) and two were observed on the ground with Canadas (Davis). The obvious small size, slightly darker dusky breast, and distinctive higher-pitched call were all noted. There are only a handful of previous reports of this high-arctic-breeding form from North Carolina.

BARNACLE GOOSE: The Barnacle Goose found at L. Mattamuskeet NWR during Nov. was last seen on the CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis, Don Temple). The bird was still staying with the Snow Geese it was first seen with. As there are at least five previous reports from North Carolina during normal migration/wintering times and at well-known locations, the possibility of wild origin exists and the species will be under review by the Records Committee.

MUTE SWAN: One at Sandling Beach, Falls Lake, NC Jan. 11 was considered to be locally unusual (Brian Bockhahn). Was this a wandering wild bird, or a local escape?

TUNDRA SWAN: Rare for the mountains, one was at Biltmore Lake, Asheville, NC during Dec. (*fide* Tim Lewis).

EURASIAN WIGEON: There were more reports of this species than usual this winter. Two were on the Pea Island NWR, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Paul Sykes) and two were at an impoundment on Topsail Island, NC Jan. 17 (Bob Holmes). Elsewhere in North Carolina, single males were located at L. Mattamuskeet NWR Jan. 15 (Eric Harrold), east of Aurora, Beaufort County Jan. 28 (Richard and Elizabeth Bruce), at New Bern Feb. 22 until the spring (Al Gamache); and another at L. Mattamuskeet was shot by a hunter Jan. 14 (*fide* Harrold). In South Carolina, one was at the Yawkey Wildlife Center Dec. 18 (Lex Glover et al.) and one was at Bulls Island Jan. 4 until at least Feb. 14 (Nathan Dias et al., Craig Richard).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL: A very good find inland in winter was one on a pond near Chapel Hill, NC Dec. 20 (Rob Gluck). Also the count of 58 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) was quite noteworthy for that location.

REDHEAD: Unusual for the mountains and anywhere inland in the Carolinas was the high count of 100 Redheads at L. Julian, NC Feb. 22 (Tom Joyce).

KING EIDER: A female of this species was present at the Garden City, SC pier Jan. 8–12 (Bob Maxwell, Ritch Lilly, Mary McDavit, Lex Glover) providing only about the fifth report for that state.

COMMON EIDER: Excellent finds were two (female and imm. male) at the Little River, SC jetty Jan. 10 by Ritch Lilly. In North Carolina, where decidedly more expected, sightings included one at Ocean Isle during Feb. (Taylor Piephoff), an imm. male at Kure Beach Jan. 24 (John Ennis, Danny Thorpe), an imm. male at Ft. Macon Dec. 11–Feb. 9 (Randy Newman, sev. obs.), a female at Ft. Macon Dec. 15 and Feb. 9 (Newman, John Fussell, Sidney Maddock), two females at the Nags Head pier Dec. 26 (Jeff Lewis), and one at the Avalon pier in Kill Devil Hills Feb. 14 (Lewis).

SURF SCOTER: Noteworthy inland winter reports included one on L. Chatuge, Clay County, NC Dec. 7 (Rusty Trump, Andy Kinsey) and one at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 8 (Brian Bockhahn).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: Rare for the mountains was one at Lakeview Estates, Henderson County, NC Jan. 27, as noted by Wayne Forsythe et al. Elsewhere two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (John & Paula Wright) were firsts for that count. Unusual were flocks of 25 at Coquina Beach, NC Jan. 31 (Harry LeGrand) and 26 at Hatteras, NC Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: There were several reports of this duck in South Carolina this winter. The best count was nine near Little River Jan. 10 (Ritch Lilly, Chris Hill). Also of note were four on the Winyah Bay CBC Dec. 18 (Nathan Dias et al.), two at Huntington Beach St. Pk. Jan. 4 (Tim Kalbach), and one at Hunting Island St. Pk. Jan. 31–Feb. 29 (Irvin Pitts et al., Robin Carter).

COMMON MERGANSER: There were several interesting reports of this species this winter. In the Greenville, NC area, unusual were a female at L. Glenwood Dec. 14–15 (Veronica Pantelidis), four females at River Park North Dec. 16–Jan. 4 (Howard Vainright) and an imm. male near there Jan. 27 (John Wright). Other inland sightings included a male at L. Marion near the Santee Dam, Berkeley County, SC Dec. 25 (Nathan Dias), a female at L. Crabtree, Wake County, NC Feb. 14 (Clyde Smith), and a pair at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis). On the coast, good finds involved singles at C. Hatteras, NC Dec. 26 (Brian Patteson) and Oregon Inlet, NC Jan. 31–Feb. 15 (Harry LeGrand, Ricky Davis, Jeff Phippen, Derb Carter).

RED-THROATED LOON: A Red-throated found at L. Julian, Buncombe County, NC Feb. 19 (Tom Joyce, sev. obs.) was extremely unusual since it

was the first report from the mountains of North Carolina. Amazingly, the bird remained at this site on into spring.

PACIFIC LOON: This winter's reports included one at C. Hatteras, NC Jan. 3 (Bob Anderson) and one at Masonboro Inlet, Wrightsville Beach, NC Jan. 23 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

RED-NECKED GREBE: After last winter's major influx, numbers of Red-necked Grebes were back to normal this season. Reports included one at C. Hatteras, NC Jan. 18 (Rob Van Epps et al.), three to five at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24–Feb. 22 (Ricky Davis), one at the Rodanthe, NC pier Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd), four at Kill Devil Hills, NC Feb. 15 (Scott Baron), and two at C. Hatteras Feb. 15 (Davis et al.).

EARED GREBE: The peak at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC this winter was 10 on Jan. 31 (Steve Calver et al.).

NORTHERN FULMAR: The pelagic trip out of Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 produced two fulmars, the only ones for the winter (Brian Patteson et al.).

MANX SHEARWATER: Always noteworthy, Manx Shearwater reports included five to six off Hatteras, NC in late Jan. (Brian Patteson) and one off Hatteras Feb. 14 (Patteson et al.).

BOOBY SP. : A booby was seen on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is., SC CBC Dec. 30 (Wendy Allen, *fide* Jack Peachey). Any winter report of a booby in the Carolinas receives extra scrutiny. The description of the bird leads toward Masked as being the most likely.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: The most unusual sighting of this increasing species was one from the mountains along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 21 (Linda Smith, Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). Elsewhere in North Carolina, the Pea Island NWR area hosted a flock of these birds during Dec. to early Jan. with the peak total being 16 on Dec. 12 (Steve Shultz). In South Carolina, where numbers continue to be impressive, the best totals included 100+ at the Santee Coastal Reserve Dec. 2 (Lloyd Moon), 52 on the Winyah Bay CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* Lex Glover), 50 at Bear Island WMA Jan. 31 (Ricky Davis et al.) and Feb. 29 (Robin Carter), 41 on the Litchfield–Pawleys Is. CBC (Ritch Lilly), 13 at the Savannah Spoil Site Jan. 31 (Steve Calver), and seven at Garden City Jan. 13 (Irvin Pitts). Also rare inland in that state were two at Taw Caw Creek near Santee NWR Dec. 12, as noted by Lloyd Moon.

BROWN PELICAN: Extremely unusual for the mountains was one that was present for one day only at a pond near Pickens, SC Jan. 24 (*fide* Scott Stegenga). Also unusual was the Brown Pelican observed flying southward over fields and pocosin habitat at Alligator River NWR, NC Dec. 21 (Ricky Davis). One wonders where this bird was headed!

GREAT CORMORANT: One on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 was a good find for that area (Nathan Dias et al.).

ANHINGA: Rare-but-regular wintering Anhingas were again found near Greenville, NC with one on the CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Veronica Pantelidis) and another Jan. 25 (John Wright, Ken Harrell). Also, one at Oriental, Pamlico County, NC was a good find Jan. 5 (Al Gamache).

LEAST BITTERN: Winter Least Bitterns are extremely rare in the Carolinas. This season, there were at least four reported! One was at L. Mattamuskeet NWR during Dec. (*fide* Allen Bryan), one was at Hatteras, NC during Dec. (*fide* Pat Moore), one was at Bear Is. WMA, SC Jan. 31 (Gerry Luginbuhl et al.), and one was at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Feb. 4 (Jack Peachey et al.).

“GREAT WHITE” HERON: The individual first found during the fall at Bear Island WMA, SC continued throughout the winter until at least Feb. 20 (sev. obs., Mary McDavit).

LITTLE BLUE HERON: Six on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 was a good count for that semi-inland locality in winter (Ricky Davis).

TRICOLORED HERON: Noteworthy inland reports included one at Santee NWR, SC Dec. 12 (Lloyd Moon) and an impressive count of 10 on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis).

REDDISH EGRET: Rare in winter in the Carolinas, one was a good find at Hobcaw Plantation on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (Gary Phillips, Wendy Allen et al.).

CATTLE EGRET: Several of the more interesting winter observations involved a good count of 12 on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan) and three at Brian, Beaufort County, SC Jan. 30 (Lex Glover, Steve Patterson.)

GREEN HERON: This species is a rare-but-regular winter bird along the immediate coast. Inland wintering birds are much more unusual. This season one was quite far inland at Winston-Salem, NC during Dec. to early Jan. (Bill Jackson et al.)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: One was a good find for the winter at Spring Island, SC Jan. 30, as noted by Pete Worthington et al.

GLOSSY IBIS: Noteworthy winter reports from North Carolina included singles on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Ricky Davis), on the Wilmington CBC Jan. 3 (*fide* Sam Cooper), and one at Topsail Island Jan. 17 (Bob Holmes).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: One from the flock that was at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC during the fall was still present as late as Dec. 3, as noted by Steve Calver.

WOOD STORK: Extremely rare and unusual for North Carolina in winter was the Wood Stork found at the Pungo Unit of Pocosin Lakes NWR Feb. 24–25 (*fide* Howard Phillips). The bird was frequenting a ditch alongside an impoundment surrounded by extensive fields!

OSPREY: Noteworthy inland Ospreys included one at Buckhorn Res., Wilson County, NC Dec. 2 (Ricky Davis), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Eric Dean), one in eastern Alamance County, NC Jan. 21 (Tomm Lorenzin), one in Greenville, NC Jan. 27 (John Wright), and two on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

BALD EAGLE: This species continues to increase throughout the Carolinas, as a nester and wintering bird. A rather impressive count of 79 was had on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (*fide* Lex Glover).

NORTHERN GOSHAWK: There were at least two in North Carolina this winter. One was in the Cedar Park, Chapel Hill area during December (Tom Driscoll) and another was at the L. Mattamuskeet NWR causeway Feb. 15 (Keith Camburn). Both birds were apparent adults, which have a plumage considerably easier to identify than that of immature birds.

“KRIDER’S” RED-TAILED HAWK: An individual of this pale form of Red-tailed Hawk was seen at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 31, as noted by Simon Thompson et al. There are only a couple of records of this form for South Carolina.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Only one was reported from the Carolinas this winter, that being the usual bird at Alligator River NWR, NC. The bird, a light-phase individual, was first noted Dec. 6 (Bruce Smithson) and last observed Feb. 16 (Scott Baron).

GOLDEN EAGLE: The number of reports of this noteworthy raptor was up this winter. The best count came from Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC area with one immature Dec. 7 and three adults Dec. 12 (John Sutton et al.). Two were good finds on the New River, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Harrol Blevins). Elsewhere in North Carolina, single adults were at Bogue Inlet Jan. 15 (Greg Massey, Dawn Carroll) and New Bern Jan. 18 (Al Gamache). In South Carolina, singles were found at the Santee Coastal Reserve Dec. 6 and Feb. 22 (Nathan Dias), at Bear Island WMA Jan. 4 (Robin Carter), and near Cash, Chesterfield County Feb. 26 (Ritch Lilly, Jack Peachey).

MERLIN: This species was widely reported in the Carolinas this winter. The farthest inland sightings involved singles at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC Dec. 8 (John Lindfors) and at Winston-Salem, NC Jan. 3 (Margaret & Gardner Gidley).

YELLOW RAIL: Only one was reported this winter, that being from the usual spot at the marshes of North River, Carteret County, NC Dec. 13 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall, Wayne Irvin, Jeff Lewis, Allen Bryan).

SANDHILL CRANE: The number of sightings of this species was up somewhat this winter. The best counts involved an impressive 11 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover), three to four returning to the North River, Carteret County, NC area for the second winter in a row (John Fussell, sev. obs.), two on the Clemson, SC CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Steve Patterson), and two in Sumter County, SC Jan. 5–Feb. 14 (Lex Glover, sev. obs.). One was a good find at Hooper Lane, NC Dec. 5–6 (Jon Smith, Joseph Gantt).

AMERICAN GOLDEN-PLOVER: Very rare for winter was the lingering Golden-Plover found at Open Grounds, Carteret County, NC Dec. 12, as noted by Jeff Lewis. There are only a handful of previous December reports for the Carolinas.

SNOWY PLOVER: South Carolina’s third Snowy Plover, first reported during the Fall season at Deveaux Bank, Charleston County, apparently wintered as it was still there as late as Feb. 11 (Sidney Maddock, Nathan Dias, Dennis Forsythe).

PIPING PLOVER: The peak count reported from the Carolinas this winter was the 17 on Bird Shoal, Carteret County, NC Dec. 17 (John Fussell et al.).

WILLET: One was locally unusual in the fields near Middleton, Hyde County, NC on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29, as noted by Russ & Patricia Tyndall.

SPOTTED SANDPIPER: Several of the more interesting reports included up to four on the Morehead City, NC CBC Dec. 14 with two apparently wintering (*vide* John Fussell), two on the Jordan Lake, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Loren Hintz et al.), one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Eric Dean), one on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Lee Yoder et al.), and one on the Ocracoke, NC CBC Jan. 2 (Jeff Beane et al.).

WHIMBREL: One was a good find for the winter season on the Ocracoke, NC CBC Jan. 2 (Jeff Beane et al.).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being at Horse Island, Beaufort, NC Dec. 16 (John Fussell).

RED KNOT: An excellent count of 335 was had on the Winyah Bay, SC CBC Dec. 18 (Nathan Dias et al.). As this species continues to decline, we need to note any significant numbers during migration and winter.

STILT SANDPIPER: This species, very rare in winter in the Carolinas, was noted twice. Nineteen was the peak count at the usual wintering spot, the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 14 (Steve Calver) and one was a very rare find inland on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (John Fussell). This latter bird provided only the second winter report for North Carolina.

RED PHALAROPE: The only report was of a good count of 239 off Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.).

LAUGHING GULL: Noteworthy winter sightings included four inland at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 8 (Brian Bockhahn), one inland in Sumter County, SC Jan. 26 (Lex Glover), and an excellent mid-winter count of 125 at the Jacksonville, NC WTP Jan. 14–Feb. 14 (Jim O'Donnell).

LITTLE GULL: Four off Hatteras, NC Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.) was a good number for an offshore boat trip. From shore, an adult and an immature were seen at C. Hatteras point Feb. 15 (Jeff Pippen, Derb Carter et al.). A complete surprise was the adult found at Jordan Lake, NC Feb. 21 (Ricky Davis, Steve Shultz). The bird, hanging around a large Bonaparte's Gull flock off of Ebenezer Point, provided only the second inland report for North Carolina. Amazingly, the first was also at Jordan Lake back in the mid-90s!

BLACK-HEADED GULL: North Carolina Black-headed included an adult at the L. Mattamuskeet NWR causeway Dec. 5 (Bruce Smithson, Harry Sell), an immature at C. Hatteras Dec. 27 (Brian Sullivan) and Jan. 18 (Will Cook, Jeff Pippen et al.), and two (one adult, one immature) at the Jacksonville WTP Feb. 24–28 (Jim O'Donnell, Buddy Garrett). In South Carolina, where decidedly much rarer, there was what could be called an invasion! An immature was at the Conway WTP Jan. 7–26 (Ritch Lilly, sev. obs.) and an adult and an immature were present off-and-on at the Georgetown WTP Jan. 22–Feb. 23 (Ritch Lilly, m. obs.).

RING-BILLED GULL: This species continues to increase as a wintering bird at inland lakes (with nearby landfills!), as evidenced by the count of 20,861 on the Falls Lake, NC CBC Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn).

CALIFORNIA GULL: One was at C. Hatteras, NC again this winter with it being noted Jan. 18 (Jeff Pippen et al.) and Feb. 1 (Rich & Susan Boyd).

THAYER'S GULL: Only one was found this winter, that being the adult on the Feb. 14 Hatteras, NC pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.).

ICELAND GULL: At least two (both first winter birds) were found this winter, with one at the Conway, SC WTP Feb. 13–23 (Chris Hill, Ritch Lilly, Sam Sleigh) and one at Ocracoke Inlet, NC Feb. 24 (Sandy & Kendrick Weeks).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Noteworthy inland sightings involved adults at Falls Lake, NC Dec. 15–Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn), in Wayne County, NC Dec. 20–Jan. 24 (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), and at L. Gaston, NC Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis). Thirty off Hatteras, NC on the pelagic trip of Feb. 14 was an impressive number offshore (Brian Patteson et al.). Also one at Breach Inlet, SC Feb. 14–22 (Nathan Dias) was considered to be of the “*intermedius*” form, a much darker-backed form than the usual “*graellsii*” found in the Carolinas.

GLAUCOUS GULL: Several Glaucous Gulls were found this winter. Rarely noted in the Carolinas, adult-plumaged individuals were found at Hatteras Inlet, NC Dec. 27 (Ricky Davis) and inland at Jordan Lake, NC Feb. 15–18 (Haven Wiley et al., sev. obs.). Others found included an immature bird, also inland, at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC Dec. 20 (Henry Link); and a first-winter bird at L. Busbee, Conway, SC Dec. 31, as noted by Nathan Dias.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Inland North Carolina reports of note included nine on the Falls Lake CBC Jan. 4 (Brian Bockhahn), five at L. Gaston Jan. 24 (Ricky Davis), and one on the Jordan Lake CBC Dec. 28 (Will Cook).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Two on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Pat Moore) were the only ones reported this winter.

BLACK SKIMMER: One on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan) was a good winter find for that tidewater location.

DOVEKIE: Dovekies, always exciting finds in the Carolinas, were reported three times. The most unusual was the Dovekie found moribund on a road near Masonboro Inlet, New Hanover County, NC Dec. 23 (Jim Parnell). The bird was taken to the nearby waterway, where even though obviously weak, it swam off, hopefully to recover. More usual were the three seen on the Hatteras, NC pelagic trip Feb. 14 (Brian Patteson et al.) and the four seen flying south with Razorbills off the beach at C. Hatteras point (Ricky Davis).

RAZORBILL: In South Carolina, a Razorbill at Huntington Beach State Park from Feb. 15 until early March (Craig Richard, sev. obs.) was a good find for that state. In North Carolina, early winter reports included three on the Bodie–Pea Islands CBC Dec. 28 (George Armistead et al.), and one at Ft. Macon Jan. 10 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). During February though, numbers

increased substantially, beginning with one at Ft. Fisher Feb. 11 (Mary McDavit) and 350 on the Feb. 14 Hatteras pelagic trip (Brian Patteson et al.). Then, the following day an amazing event occurred near C. Hatteras point. In two-and-a-half hours of watching during the morning, a count of 8,875 Razorbills all flying south off the beach was made (Ricky Davis et al.). There were others in small groups on the water and several milling around in all directions, such that there were over 9,000 in the area! This was easily the record one-day total for this species in the state. Many felt this had to represent a substantial percentage of the western Atlantic population.

COMMON GROUND-DOVE: The Ground-Dove found near North River, Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 was last seen Jan. 7 (John Fussell).

SHORT-EARED OWL: This winter's reports involved one at the Santee Coastal Reserve, SC Dec. 6 (Nathan Dias), two near Oregon Inlet, NC Dec. 12 (Susan Cameron), three at Alligator River NWR, NC Feb. 13 (Derb Carter, Jeff Phippen, Ricky Davis), and two far inland at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Jan. through Feb. (sev. obs.).

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL: Only one was mentioned this winter, that being on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (John Fussell, Elizabeth Hanrahan). Interestingly, the bird was in the same location as one the previous winter.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: One was present (voice heard repeatedly to clinch identification) on the UNC-W campus in Wilmington, NC Nov. 29–Jan. 3 (David DuMond, Greg Massey, Sam Cooper, sev. obs.). This bird provided the first definite winter record for North Carolina, easily the first to be found in January.

WHIP-POOR-WILL: This species is rarely found in North Carolina during winter; usually they are present in small numbers along the extreme southeastern coast. Thus one far inland in sw. Randolph County, NC Jan. 2 (Jane Lewis) was a complete surprise.

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: This season's Black-chinned Hummingbird reports included adult females banded at Laurinburg, NC, Whispering Pines, NC, and Charlotte, NC during the winter (Susan Campbell), a second-year female banded at Gastonia, NC Feb. 13 (Bill Hilton Jr.), and an adult female wintering on Hilton Head Island, SC (Gary Phillips).

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: In North Carolina, one was present at Shelby during Jan. and Feb. (Dot McMurray, banded by Susan Campbell). In South Carolina, reports involved an unprecedented three different individuals in the same yard in Greer during Dec. (Charles & Judy Webb, banded by Gary Phillips), one in Lexington Jan. 11 (Phillips), and one at Clemson Jan. 13 (Bill Hilton Jr.).

SAY'S PHOEBE: One was seen for only one day at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Dec. 21, as noted by Jim Edwards, Bing Somers and Jane Chew. This bird represented about the fourth for that state.

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: The Ash-throated first reported from North River, Carteret County, NC Nov. 30 was last seen Dec. 13 (John Fussell et al.).

WESTERN KINGBIRD: One was a good find for the winter at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC Jan. 3, as noted by Steve Calver.

BLUE-HEADED VIREO: An impressive and record winter total for Blue-headed Vireo was had on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 when 57 were tallied (*fide* Lex Glover). Also one at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Feb. 7 (John Sutton) was locally quite unusual for that time of year.

COMMON RAVEN: Several Piedmont reports of Ravens were received this winter. One was seen 5 miles south of Hillsborough, Orange County, NC Dec. 13 (Ginger Travis) and most likely the same individual was seen about a mile south of there Dec. 22 (Derb Carter). In South Carolina, one was a surprise at the Glassy Mt. Heritage, Pickens County Jan. 1, as noted by Robin Carter.

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW: One was seen well and observed closely on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (John Fussell). This species is extremely unusual in North Carolina during the winter.

“PETROCHELIDON” SWALLOW: An individual of this genus was observed at the Yawkey Wildlife Center, SC Dec. 18 (Lex Glover et al.). The bird was not seen well enough to identify to species. This was the only Cliff/Cave swallow mentioned this winter, in stark contrast to last fall and winter’s invasion.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE: One found on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC by two different parties Dec. 27 (Neal Moore, Chris Eley, Frank Witebsky) was extremely unusual for the area. Chickadees are not normally found on the Banks south of Bodie Island.

HOUSE WREN: Noteworthy inland counts of House Wren included three on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (*fide* Wayne Forsythe) and four on the Chapel Hill, NC CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Will Cook).

SEDGE WREN: The farthest inland that this species was noted was along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 29 (Marilyn Westphal). Other noteworthy Piedmont sightings involved two at Cowans Ford Refuge on the S. Lake Norman CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) and one on the Pee Dee NWR, NC CBC Jan. 3 (*fide* Laura Fogo).

MARSH WREN: One was a good find in the mountains along the French Broad River, Henderson County, NC Feb. 28, as noted by Marilyn Westphal et al.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER: One was a good find at Freedom Park, Charlotte, NC Jan. 22, as noted by Harriett Whitsett. Elsewhere, a count of 25 on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) was truly impressive for a winter report.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD: One on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock) was considered to be a good find locally since the species is rare that far south on the Outer Banks.

GRAY CATBIRD: This species was noted as a wintering bird at many inland sites this year. The normal wintering range in North Carolina includes the Coastal Plain and Coast. Several far inland reports were mentioned, including one at Winston-Salem in early Jan. (*vide* Ramona Snively), one at Gastonia Jan. 17 (Steve Tracy), one on the Chapel Hill CBC Dec. 21 (Tom Driscoll), and one on the Jordan Lake CBC Dec. 28 (*vide* Norman Budnitz).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER: Several Orange-crowns were found far inland this winter. Locally rare were singles on the Charlotte, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Alan Kneidel), on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Simon Thompson), and at Simpsonville, SC Jan. 15 (Pete Worthington).

NASHVILLE WARBLER: One at Apex, Wake County, NC Dec. 27 (Steve Shultz) provided a very rare occurrence in winter. Most winter sightings in the Carolinas are along the coast.

YELLOW WARBLER: There were three reports this winter. Singles were noted at Donnelley WMA, SC Jan. 29 (George & Judy Halleron) and nearby Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Simon Thompson et al.). In North Carolina, one was a good find on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29, as noted by Jeff Lewis.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER: One was a good find on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Jeff Lewis).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER: Noteworthy was one on the Wayne County, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*vide* Eric Dean). Also a count of four on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*vide* Lex Glover) was impressive.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: This species is found in winter on a somewhat regular basis in the southern coastal areas, but in the northern areas, it is harder to come by. Thus of note were singles on the Bodie-Pea Islands, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Ricky Davis), on Ocracoke Island, NC Jan. 1 (Jeff Beane et al.), and at Frisco, NC Jan. 5 (Dave Lenat).

PALM WARBLER: Eight on the Henderson County, NC CBC Dec. 28 (Wayne Forsythe et al.) provided an impressive total for that mountain locality in winter.

AMERICAN REDSTART: A female was an excellent find at Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Simon Thompson et al.). This species is one of the rarer warblers to linger into the winter in the Carolinas.

OVENBIRD: Very rare in winter away from the usual C. Hatteras, NC area were single Ovenbirds at Raven Rock St. Pk., NC Dec. 30 (Gary Levandoski) and one on James Island, SC Feb. 1 (Dennis Forsythe).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH: There were several reports of this warbler from the Carolinas this winter. One was at the Lake Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet NWR Dec. 3 (Al Gamache), and one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (Paul Sykes, Audrey Whitlock). In South Carolina at the Savannah Spoil Site, two were present Dec. 3, and one remained all winter at least until Feb. 20 (Steve Calver).

WILSON'S WARBLER: Wilson's Warblers are one of the more-expected rarely-wintering warblers in the Carolinas. This year one was at Charlotte, NC Dec. 31-Feb. 14 (Heathey Walker), one was at L. Norman, NC during

Jan. (Dorothy Emery), and one was on the Wilmington, NC CBC Jan. 3 (*fide* Sam Cooper).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: Three were found on North Carolina CBCs this season, with single birds at Morehead City, Dec. 14 (John Wright), Kitty Hawk Dec. 20 (Jeff Lewis), and C. Hatteras Dec. 27 (Edmund LeGrand).

SUMMER TANAGER: A female frequented a feeder at Winston-Salem, NC from late Dec. until the end of February (Doug & Pam DeNeve, *fide* Ramona Snavelly). Wintering Summer Tanagers are extremely unusual, much more so than the next species.

WESTERN TANAGER: There were two reported this winter. One was in Charlotte, NC during Jan. (Mary Buckle, Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, John Buckman) and one was in Summerville, SC during Jan. (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW: There were three reports of this very rare sparrow in North Carolina this winter. The best count was five in the dunes at Kitty Hawk Dec. 20 (*fide* Jeff Lewis). Singles were noted at Piney Creek, Alleghany County Jan. 28–Feb. 5 (James H. Coman, Jr.) and at Hertford Feb. 15 (*fide* Josh Rose).

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: This species wintered in higher-than-normal numbers this season. Probably a record count for the Carolinas was the eight to nine near North River, Carteret County, NC during late February, with at least five being noted there all winter (John Fussell et al.). Others included singles northeast of Rocky Mount, NC all winter (Ricky Davis) and at Wanchese, Roanoke Island, NC Dec. 28 (Marshall Iliff, George Armistead).

LARK SPARROW: One was present at the high school in N. Myrtle Beach, SC Jan. 11 until the end of the period (K.C. Foggins, sev. obs.), and amazingly it was joined by a second one Jan. 29–30 (Foggins, sev. obs.).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW: Always noteworthy in winter, this season's reports involved one on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 20 (Ricky Davis), one the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 21 (Taylor Piephoff), one on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover), and from one to two in Carteret County, NC from late Dec. to at least late Feb. (John Fussell et al.).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: Reports of this secretive sparrow were few and far between this winter. One was a good find at King's Grant Rd., Calhoun County, SC Feb. 29, as noted by Robin Carter.

LE CONTE'S SPARROW: Also underreported this winter, only two on the Santee NWR, SC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Lex Glover) were mentioned.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: There was the usual number of wintering Lincoln's Sparrows this winter. The best counts involved two on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 20 (Ricky Davis), two on the Greenville, NC CBC Jan. 4 (*fide* Veronica Pantelidis), and two along Sandridge Road, Dorchester County, SC Dec. 7 (Robin Carter). Also of note far inland was one on the Southern L. Norman, NC CBC Dec. 21 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR: This winter's reports were highlighted by the large flock at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC with a peak count of 100 Dec. 6 (Harry LeGrand et al.). As late as Feb. 27, at least 75 were still present, as noted by Wayne Forsythe. Elsewhere two were at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC Dec. 21 (Lex Glover, Steve Patterson), two were on Bulls Island on the Charleston, SC CBC Jan. 4 (Duane Hoffman, Burton Moore et al.), two were on the north end of Kiawah Island, SC Feb. 11 (Nathan Dias), and one was on the Rocky Mount, NC CBC Dec. 21 (Ricky Davis).

SNOW BUNTING: Snow Buntings were somewhat scarce this winter, with the best count being a rather impressive 14 on Bulls Island, SC Jan. 4 (Duane Hoffman, Burton Moore et al.). Singles were also noted at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC Dec. 8 (Lee Garling, *fide* Donna Slyce) and near Oregon Inlet, NC Dec. 6 (John Wright et al.).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK: Very rare in winter was a female-plumaged grosbeak frequenting a feeder in Brevard, NC from late Dec. to early Jan. (Jean & Bill Hough, *fide* Norma Siebenheller).

BLUE GROSBEEK: Blue Grosbeaks are extremely unusual in the Carolinas during winter. Amazingly, three were reported this year, including singles on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 14 (Norm Budnitz, Dan Kaplan), at Carolina Beach St. Pk., NC Jan. 22 (Bruce Smithson), and at Clayton, NC Jan. 28 (David Williams).

INDIGO BUNTING: Usually winter sightings of Indigo Buntings are along the coast or in the Coastal Plain. This year however, two were complete surprises at a feeder in the Piedmont at Winston-Salem, NC all winter (the Henzlers, Ramona Snavelly, sev. obs.).

PAINTED BUNTING: Very unusual inland in winter was the green-plumaged Painted Bunting found on the Durham, NC CBC Dec. 14 (Jeff Phippen, Jacob Socolar). There are only a couple of inland winter sightings for that state. Elsewhere, near the coast, where more expected, two were on the Kitty Hawk, NC CBC Dec. 20 (*fide* Jeff Lewis), two were at Manteo, NC Jan. 1 (Lewis), and one was on the C. Hatteras, NC CBC Dec. 27 (*fide* Pat Moore).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: There were three reports of this almost annual winter visitor, with singles south of Goldsboro, NC during Dec. (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), at a feeder at Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach, NC during Dec. (Carolyn Bush, *fide* Mary McDavit), and one on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (*fide* Allen Bryan).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: The large farm in Carteret County, NC once again hosted good numbers of this very local wintering blackbird. A noteworthy count for that state was the 30 observed on the date of Dec. 12 (Jeff Lewis, Wayne Irvin). Also seven were found on the L. Mattamuskeet NWR CBC Dec. 29 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and one was at Savannah NWR, SC Jan. 31 (Dwayne Martin et al.).

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy in the Carolinas, this winter's sightings included one at Maggie Valley, Haywood County, NC Jan. 3

(Marilyn Westphal) and three in the Asheville, NC area Dec. 30 until late Feb. (Simon Thompson).

COMMON REDPOLL: Common Redpolls staged what could be called a record invasion into the Carolinas this winter. It all started when one was at a feeder at Bakers Mt., Catawba County, NC Dec. 5 (John Sutton). Then the following week, up to two were present in an area in Frisco, NC Dec. 10–13 (Brian Patteson, sev. obs.). About a week and a half later, the invasion happened. On the morning of Dec. 28, along the Outer Banks of North Carolina, flocks of these finches were noted flying in from the ocean. During the Bodie–Pea Islands CBC that day, all parties reported Redpolls and the count total of 167 for the day was easily a record count for the southeast (Paul Sykes et al., m. obs.). On Dec. 29–30 four were in a yard in Frisco (Pat & Neal Moore, Marcia Lyons); five were on Ocracoke, with two remaining until mid-Feb. (Elizabeth Hanrahan, m. obs.); three more were elsewhere on Ocracoke Island (Jeff Beane); four were at Mackay Island NWR (David Clark); and at least several were at Manteo (Linda & Skip Morgan). Later sightings included one over Roanoke Island Jan. 5 (Jeff Lewis) and one at a feeder in Greenville, NC Feb. 20–28 (Josh & Sterling Southern).

EVENING GROSBEAK: Once again this species was almost absent from the Carolinas, with a report of a female at a feeder in Simpsonville, SC Feb. 19 being most unusual (Pete Worthington).

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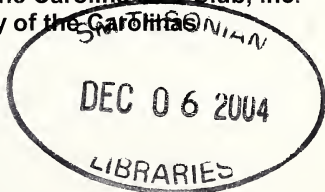
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Status and Conservation of American and Least Bitterns in South Carolina

William Post

Charleston Museum, 360 Meeting Street, Charleston, SC 29403

Introduction

Two species of solitary marsh-nesting Ardeidae, the American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and the Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), nest in North America. Both have been classified in parts of their respective ranges as threatened, endangered, or of special concern. Their population declines are related to destruction of freshwater wetlands. Due to the secretive behavior of these birds and the relatively inaccessible habitats that they occupy, little is known about their biology in southeastern North America. In this paper I review what is known of the two species in South Carolina and adjacent areas.

American Bittern

Autumn and winter. Unlike other herons occurring in the Southeast, most individuals of this species are solitary and cryptic all year. This behavior makes it difficult to locate more than one or two individuals in a day's field work. Because the American Bittern occurs in the summer as either a breeder or vagrant, it is difficult to establish the dates of its arrival in the autumn or of its departure in the spring. Single birds reported on the edge of Hell-Hole Swamp, Charleston County, on 11 August 1921 (E. A. Hyer) and at Bear Island, Colleton County, on 10 July 1991 (J. E. Cely) were possibly vagrants (McNair and Post 1993).

Tomkins (1958) states that although the American Bittern was "more common than one would suspect" during winter at the Savannah River Wildlife Refuge (Jasper County), E. O. Mellinger, the refuge manager, had no information that the species occurred in summer.

A few birds have been found in winter in the upper Piedmont and in the mountains. For example, one was seen on 14 February 1989 in northern York County (H. Walker *in* LeGrand 1989), and one was seen 21 December 1986 in Greenville (J. Batson *in* LeGrand 1987).

Breeding. The American Bittern is a casual and sporadic breeder on the Coastal Plain of South Carolina. It apparently prefers large (at least 10 ha [25 a]) shallow freshwater wetlands with a dense, robust growth of emergent vegetation (Gibbs et al. 1992). Nests are difficult to find: besides using inaccessible habitats, the bittern is solitary and secretive. Only four cases of breeding have been confirmed in South Carolina. One case is documented by a clutch of eggs.

On 29 March 1833, nine miles from Charleston, Audubon and Bachman collected females that had small eggs in their ovaries. Then, on 29 April 1833, 40 miles from Charleston, Bachman collected several more females. These individuals had large eggs in their ovaries and presumably would have deposited them within a week (Audubon 1838). The specimens collected by Audubon and Bachman no longer exist. The earliest extant American Bittern specimen from South Carolina is a skin (Museum of Comparative Zoology 186363) collected at Frogmore, Beaufort County, 31 March 1884 by W. W. Worthington.

Wayne (1910) found young American Bitterns in June 1887 in a rice field near Yemassee, Beaufort County, probably at Buckfield Plantation, and saw several pairs of adults from May through July. This appears to be the only breeding incident at Yemassee. Wayne (1910) worked in the Yemassee area March–October 1890, and although he saw many bitterns, he was unable to find a nest containing eggs.

More than 75 years later, on 5 July 1962, T. A. Beckett, III found two pre-flight young in an impounded brackish marsh on the Ashley River at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County. One, or possibly two, pairs were seen at Magnolia Gardens during the breeding seasons of 1967–1968, but no further breeding evidence was obtained (McNair and Post 1993). Intensive field work in the same marsh (Fig. 1) during the summers of 1985–1992 revealed no American Bitterns (Post and Seals 1991).



Figure 1. Impounded cattail (*Typha angustifolia* and *T. domingensis*) marsh at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County, South Carolina, breeding site of American and Least Bitterns.

The first and only South Carolina nest was found by Ernest Cutts on 23 May 1968, on James Island, near the Stono River in Charleston County. The nest had three eggs (Cutts set mark 68.3; Charleston Museum 2731–2733).

Cutts stated that the nest was "a pile of reeds with flat platform top holding the eggs. Nest was about 3 feet from bank in pond on sixth hole of golf course. Incubation had started." (Charleston Museum egg slip).

Since Cutts's 1968 breeding record, no further evidence of nesting has been obtained in South Carolina, and the species may be even less common now than 40 years ago. The Breeding Bird Survey showed a significant decline ($-2.4\%/yr$, 1966–1989) in population numbers in the United States (Robbins et al. 1986). It is possible that the range of American Bitterns is shifting northward, tracking the distribution of palustrine wetlands created by the retreating glaciers (Gibbs et al. 1992). Indeed, the American Bittern's dependence on inland freshwater marshes prompted Payne and Risley (1976) to suggest that it is a relict species. Declines in the United States may represent an acceleration of its northern retreat, hastened by habitat destruction in the southern part of its range (Gibbs et al. 1992).

Status in neighboring regions. Pearson et al. (1942) knew of only one breeding record in North Carolina: a nest found by J. C. Rabb in a clump of Black Needle-rush (*Juncus roemerianus*) on Church's Island, Currituck County, on 19 May 1941. The young had left the nest, but Rabb collected egg shell fragments, and took them to the North Carolina State Museum.

In North Carolina, as in South Carolina, American Bitterns are solitary, but it is possible that they may aggregate during migration periods, especially when suitable habitats are limited. In the interior, six were seen on 15 April 1972 at Oconechee Neck, Northampton County, North Carolina (M. Lynch in Teulings 1972). Highly unusual was a report of 26 seen on 24 April 1983 at Falls Lake, near Durham (M. Schultz in LeGrand 1983). It is possible that this report involved at least some juvenile Black-crowned Night-Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).

Based on summer sightings, Burleigh (1958) thought that the American Bittern might be found breeding in Okefenokee Swamp, Georgia. Beaton et al. (2003) do not cite any breeding records for the state. The maximum Georgia count is 10–13 at Grand Bay Wildlife Management Area (Lanier/Lowndes Counties) in early March 2000 (Beaton et al. 2003).

Burleigh (1958) incorrectly stated that the American Bittern nested in Florida. Tangible evidence of breeding is still lacking from that state, although Stevenson and Anderson (1994) list many summer records, including specimens of adults, as far south as the Everglades.

Conservation and management. As suggested by the reports of Audubon and Bachman, it is possible that the American Bittern was more common in the 1700s and 1800s, when rice was grown extensively on the Coastal Plain from lower Cape Fear, North Carolina, to the Altamaha River, Georgia (Silver 1990). An indication of this bittern's former abundance is Audubon's (1838) statement that "some dozens" may be seen in a particular place. Little is known about the basic biology of this species anywhere in its range (Gibbs et al. 1992).

The most urgent management need is preservation of shallow freshwater wetlands with a dense growth of emergent vegetation. This is the preferred

habitat of the species during both the breeding and wintering periods (Gibbs et al. 1992). As individual breeding home ranges may encompass up to 20 ha, it is important to preserve relatively large areas of contiguous nesting and feeding areas. In some areas of the middle western United States, American Bitterns forage outside their nesting marsh, as for example in hayfields. The minimum size marsh needed to support one nesting pair has not been determined, and the configuration of the marsh may be important in determining size. As with other marsh nesters, the bitterns may prefer to place their nests in predator-secure sites, which are usually on islands surrounded by open water, and often some distance from tall trees that might provide perches for predators. Managers of wetlands should be encouraged to maintain predator-free islands with sufficient overwintering vegetation to provide secure nest sites for bitterns and other marsh nesters.

Least Bittern

Autumn and winter. For the most part, Least Bitterns winter in South Florida, the Greater Antilles and northern South America (Schorger 1962, Gibbs et al. 1992). Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949) considered the species to be casual in winter anywhere in South Carolina. Later, based on winter records made primarily by T. A. Beckett, III in a brackish impoundment at Magnolia Gardens, Burton (1970) revised its status to "permanent resident, rare in winter." This winter status applies only to the Coastal Plain, as there seem to be no verified winter records north of the Fall Line in South Carolina (Post and Gauthreaux 1989, McNair and Post 1993).

Breeding. On the coast, resident birds return as early as March, but because of the presence of overwintering individuals, it is difficult to determine definitive arrival dates. In the breeding season, this species is locally common on the immediate coast of South Carolina. It is decidedly local and uncommon on the remainder of the Coastal Plain, and rare in Piedmont.

Least Bitterns nest solitarily or in loose groups. They forage in dense cover, usually at the edge of deep water. The highest breeding densities have been found in marshes that have a heterogeneous mixture of open water and emergent vegetation, such as cattails (*Typha* spp.) or Cut-grass (*Zizaniopsis miliacea*). Although Least Bitterns do not appear to be colonial in the sense of social affiliation, pairs may nest close together in suitable sites (Kushlan 1973). Audubon (1835) mentions a report by Dr. Horlbeck of Charleston that they were seen breeding in colonies of four or five pairs.

Recent studies suggest that Least Bitterns are able to avoid predators by congregating on isolated marsh islands (Post and Seals 1991, 1993; Post 1998). The latter authors studied a breeding population in an impounded cattail marsh at Magnolia Gardens, Charleston County. Breeding density was 12 pairs per ha of vegetated habitat. Most pairs nested in groups of two to fifteen, often in colonies of Boat-tailed Grackles (*Quiscalus major*), usually on small cattail islands surrounded by open water (Fig. 2).



Figure 2. Cattail island in the impounded marsh at Magnolia Gardens, South Carolina, nesting site for Least Bitterns.

At Magnolia Gardens, Least Bitterns began nesting in late April. The average completion date of the first clutch was 22 April (7-year range: 6 April–12 May). The average clutch size was 3.80 ($N=110$). Modal clutch size was four (50% of clutches), followed by three (28%), five (17%) and two (5%). No clutches of six were located. Mean brood size was 2.93, and an average of 2.68 young left the nest. Hatching success ($N=548$ eggs) was 54%. Fledging success (percentage of 297 young that left the nest) was 92%.

The incubation period is 19 days, but young are able to climb in and out of the nest six days after hatching (Fig. 3). Most mortality to eggs and young was due to nest instability. Avian predators were uncommon, as they were chased from the nesting areas by Boat-tailed Grackles. Terrestrial predators were seldom found in the marsh, possibly due to the presence of American Alligators (*Alligator mississippiensis*).

Least Bitterns appear to raise only one brood per year in South Carolina. Later clutches, those laid at the end of May and in June, most likely represent second nestings by pairs that failed earlier. At Magnolia Gardens, the latest clutch was completed on 5 July (1989). Eggs were found as late as 24 July (1989), and young (5–6 days old) were still in the nest on 31 July. The average length of the breeding season, defined as the time between the laying of the first egg and the day when the last young has left the nest, was 83 days (7-yr range, 62–101 days).



Figure 3. Nestling Least Bitterns. The larger young (day six) are able to climb out of the nest. Magnolia Gardens, South Carolina, May 1990.

Fifty-five oology records are available for coastal South Carolina: mean clutch size is 3.95 ± 0.68 . The frequency distribution of clutch sizes is: four: 60%; three: 20%; five: 18%; two: 2%. This distribution does not differ from that found in the Magnolia Gardens study cited above. The mean clutch completion date calculated from oology records is 1 June, range 10 April–19 July. This mean is 13 days later than that found at Magnolia Gardens, but the range of dates is about the same. Oologists probably concentrated their collecting in the middle of the nesting season in order to maximize their take, but, as the Least Bittern shows little variation in clutch size over season in South Carolina, uneven sampling by oologists, if it existed, probably would not have been a significant source of bias.

Least Bitterns also nest in salt marshes, as indicated by data from egg slips (Charleston Museum collection). Ivan Tomkins collected a set of two eggs in Smooth Cordgrass (*Spartina alterniflora*) on Jones Island (Jasper County), and Ernest Cutts collected a set of three and a set of four from a Black Needle-rush (*Juncus roemerianus*) marsh on the Stono River (Charleston County).

Apparently, the largest inland breeding population in South Carolina is on managed impoundments on Santee National Wildlife Refuge, Clarendon County, where 13 birds were calling on 9 May 1984 (D. B. McNair, Charleston Museum files). B. F. Taylor stated that this bittern nested at Columbia, probably below the Fall Line, before 1915 (Charleston Museum files), but no material documentation is known. In Barnwell County, at the

Savannah River Site, Norris (1963) stated that the Least Bittern was still "fairly common." He found two pairs in one Carolina bay, and one pair in another bay. Similarly, Post (1969) found two pairs in the nearby Williston Carolina bay, also in Barnwell County.

Above the Fall Line, in the Piedmont of South Carolina, there is only one report suggesting possible breeding: the species was included on a list of species nesting in Greenwood County (Gee 1936), but no documentation was provided.

Status in neighboring regions. Its winter status in Georgia is about the same as in South Carolina. Beaton et al. (2003) state that they know of about 10 winter records from the immediate coast and from the Coastal Plain. These authors give Georgia extreme dates of 26 April to 26 October.

In Georgia, as in South Carolina, Least Bitterns nest most commonly near the coast (Burleigh 1958). On the upper Coastal Plain of Georgia, this species was once a "common" breeder in restricted habitats in the Middle Savannah River Valley (Murphey 1937). Occasionally, breeding extends into the Piedmont. Single nests were found at Candler Lake, Atlanta, in 1944 and 1945 (Major and Johnston 1944; Major 1945). A recent report of suspected breeding above the Fall Line is that of two "family groups" seen in a marsh in Greene County, east of Atlanta, in the summer of 1995 (P. Sykes et al. *in* Davis 1995).

Conservation and management. As in the case of the American Bittern, this species was undoubtedly more common on the Coastal Plain during the rice-growing era. Wayne (1910) worked during the period just after the demise of the rice industry. He said little of the Least Bittern's abundance during the nesting season. He collected eight specimens, only two of which were summer birds.

Least Bitterns may have already declined by the late nineteenth century. Since the 1920s, this decline was undoubtedly hastened by changes in agricultural practices, which encouraged farmers to clear marginal areas such as marshes (Lee 1999). For example, many shallow-water wetlands such as Carolina bays have disappeared throughout the southeastern Coastal Plain (Barry 1980, Bennett and Nelson 1991).

Fortunately, Least Bitterns tolerate humans, and may even persist in urban areas (Gibbs et al. 1992). The bittern adapts to man-made marsh habitats such as impoundments, which can be managed to provide habitats for nesting marsh birds (Post and Seals 1991, Post 1998).

The first conservation priority for the Least Bittern should be the establishment of suitable nesting areas in the upper Coastal Plain, where the species once may have been more common. For example, the islands in the Chicora-Hatchery area of southern Lake Moultrie, Dorchester County, South Carolina, provide extensive nesting habitats for bitterns. With appropriate water-level management, Least Bitterns may be encouraged to nest on other public lakes, which now form an extensive network throughout the inlands of the Carolinas and Georgia.

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General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks Nest in South Carolina

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Until fairly recently the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) was considered accidental (one record, a specimen in 1977; Martin 1984) in South Carolina and classified as Provisional II (considered introduced by man or escaped from captivity, but not yet established) on the official state list (Post and Gauthreaux 1989). It was not until 1994 that a second record was documented, that of two ducks seen together, and photographed, at the Donnelley Wildlife Management Area (DWMA), Colleton County, on 30 July 1994 (Harrigal et al. 1995).

Since then an increasing number of sightings have come from lower coastal areas of South Carolina to the extent that the species is now classified as Definitive (considered established in the state) on the 2003 state list (South Carolina Bird Records Committee 2004).

* General Field Notes authored by a GFN editor are edited by the editor of *The Chat*.

In the summer of 2003, Harrigal observed a pair of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks with a brood of ducklings at DWMA. On 23 July 2004, Greg Hudson, DWMA Area Manager, saw a pair of whistling-ducks there with a brood of ten. These sightings constitute the first documented nesting records in the wild in South Carolina.

Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks have been expanding their U.S. breeding range, centered in southern Texas, during the twentieth century (James and Thompson 2001). The first confirmed evidence of breeding in Florida was in 1990, and birds have recently nested as far north as Arkansas (James and Thompson 2001). Although the origin of some whistling-duck populations may have been from escapees (Florida) or in some cases from deliberate release programs, such as in Louisiana, most birds currently in Florida are considered to have originated from wild stock (James and Thompson 2001).

That the species has increased noticeably in the lower Colleton County area since first being found in 1994 is supported by the fact that Harrigal knows of an estimated 125–150 whistling-ducks on private land near Donnelly Wildlife Management Area (Fig. 1). Although considered migratory in the northern portions of its range (James and Thompson 2001), some birds, as documented by Harrigal, may be staying year round in South Carolina. Also, during the winter they have shown up in hunters' bags in Colleton County.

It remains to be seen if Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks will continue expanding northward along the Atlantic coast. Only two records had been documented within North Carolina as of 2000 (Lee 2000), and as of 2002 the species was not recognized by the North Carolina Bird Records Committee (2002).



Figure 1. Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*), part of an estimated 125–150 birds on private lands, Colleton County, SC. Photo taken May 2004 by Dean Harrigal.

Nesting and brood habitat for Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks is described by James and Thompson (2001) as shallow freshwater lakes and ponds, often with emergent vegetation such as cattail (*Typha* spp.) and water lilies (*Castalia* spp.). Although they will nest on the ground, they are considered

to be primarily cavity nesters, using both natural cavities and nest boxes (James and Thompson 2001). Harrigal has seen no evidence to date of their using Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*) boxes in South Carolina. However, it appears that the numerous coastal waterfowl impoundments and managed wetlands, along with thousands of Wood Duck boxes, could provide abundant habitat for the species to flourish in South Carolina.

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Nesting Evidence of Ovenbirds in the Coastal Plain of South Carolina

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From 2001 to 2004 I heard 4–6 Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) singing every year on Weymouth Plantation, 8 miles NE of Georgetown in Georgetown County, South Carolina. On 4 June 2003, I searched for breeding activity on a pine/oak ridge next to a cypress swamp. A pair of Ovenbirds was feeding fledglings that were at least 20–30 days old (see Van Horn and Donovan 1994 for aging criteria). On this same day about 400 m away a male was singing and its mate was foraging in leaf litter. The female fed a 7–10 day old fledgling that was too young to fly more than 1 meter.

At Weymouth on 11 April 2004 I observed a female Ovenbird building a nest. Two weeks later I returned and photographed the nest. Although the

nest was complete, it was empty. The nest was a grass and pine needle dome under an arching Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) branch.



Figure 1. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*) nest, Georgetown County, South Carolina, 25 April 2004.

The overstory at Weymouth where nesting was observed is predominantly mature Live Oak (*Quercus virginiana*), Laurel Oak (*Quercus laurifolia*), Longleaf Pine (*Pinus palustris*) and Loblolly Pine (*Pinus taeda*). The midstory contains Blueberry (*Vaccinium* spp.), Sweetgum, Waxmyrtle (*Myrica cerifera*) and other hardwood species. The ground is open with a thick cover of dead leaves.

Van Horn and Donovan (1994) report the breeding range extending only into the western part of South Carolina (mountains and western piedmont) but not into the coastal plain. Ovenbirds nest in the coastal plain on the Atlantic coast from northeast North Carolina north into Canada (Van Horn and Donovan 1994). Cely (1979) reported a singing male, "showing concern" and apparently on territory, in Georgetown County in 1977 and again at the same location in 1978, but did not find evidence of breeding.

This is one of the southernmost confirmed Ovenbird breeding records for the outer coastal plain of South Carolina (Cely 2003) and further evidence that they are localized breeders in the South Carolina coastal plain. Ovenbird nesting was observed near Ravenel, in Charleston County, SC during the late 1990s (John Gerwin, pers. comm.). Ovenbirds may be expanding their range into South Carolina's coastal plain. This may explain the increased number of Ovenbirds on breeding bird surveys from 1966–2003 in South Carolina

(8.4, 13.8, $n = 14$, $P = 0.04$) ((trend (%/year), variance, number of routes and P value)) (Sauer et al. 2004).

I thank John Cely for reviewing this note and the Dwyers for allowing me to explore Weymouth Plantation.

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The Cackling Goose in South Carolina and Neighboring Regions

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The Cackling Goose (*Branta hutchinsii*) has recently been classified as a distinct species (American Ornithologists' Union [AOU] 2003). Formerly (AOU 1998), it was considered a subspecies of the Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*), and was known as Hutchins's Goose (Forbush 1929), Richardson's Canada Goose (Delacour 1954) or Tundra Goose (Mowbray et al. 2002). The Cackling Goose is about half the size of the nominate race of the Canada Goose (*B. c. canadensis*; Fig. 1). Ninety years ago, Brooks (1914) suggested that the "Canada Goose" was composed of more than one species. Recent work with mitochondrial DNA (van Wagner and Baker 1986, Shields and Wilson 1987) and others confirmed Brooks's hypothesis.

The purpose of this paper is to review records of the Cackling Goose for South Carolina and adjacent areas, to clarify the distribution of the species on the southern Atlantic coast.

The small-bodied form of the Canada Goose (AOU 1998), now called the Cackling Goose (*B. hutchinsii*), includes four (Mowbray et al. 2002) or five subspecies (AOU 2003, following Delacour 1954). The Cackling Goose may be more closely related to other members of the genus *Branta*, such as the Brant (*B. bernicla*) and the Barnacle Goose (*B. leucopsis*), than it is to the large-bodied Canada Goose (*B. canadensis*), which is now thought to be composed of seven subspecies (Delacour 1954, AOU 2003).

Three specimens of the Cackling Goose have been collected in South Carolina, although only two are extant. The first (ChM 53.19, study skin prepared by E. B. Chamberlain, sex undetermined) was collected on 13 December 1950, Cherokee Plantation, Combahee River (Colleton County), by John H. Dick. As confirmed by Herbert Friedmann (US National Museum), the specimen is an example of *B. h. hutchinsii*, which is the palest subspecies of the Cackling Goose. As is characteristic of this race, it lacks a white collar at the base of its dark neck, and its white cheeks are continuous across the chin. The measurements of the specimen are: wing: 350 mm; total body length: 550 mm; mass: 1418 g; culmen from base: length: 32.5 mm; width: 18.0 mm, depth: 18.2 mm. These fall within the range of measurements given by Mowbray et al. (2002) for *B. h. hutchinsii*.

The second specimen (ChM 2001.2.101, mounted skin prepared by W. A. Biederman, sex undetermined; Fig. 1) was shot 11 November 1959 at Bear Point, Kinloch Plantation (Georgetown County) by Eugene E. DuPont. In comparison to the goose taken in 1950, this bird is a paler example of *B. h. hutchinsii*. Its measurements are: wing: 340 mm; culmen from base of skull: length: 33.5 mm; width 16.3 mm; depth: 18.5 mm, all consistent with measurements of *hutchinsii* (Mowbray et al. 2002).

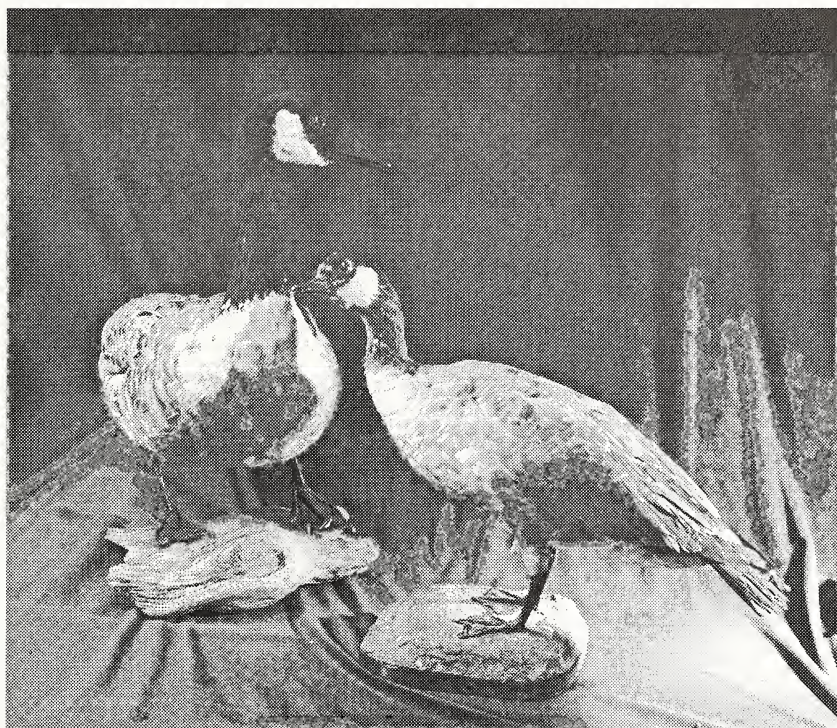


Figure 1. Right: Cackling Goose, *Branta hutchinsii hutchinsii* (ChM 2001.2.101) collected 11 November 1959, Kinloch Plantation, Georgetown County. Left: Canada Goose, *Branta canadensis*.

A third Cackling Goose was taken on 9 January 1968 at Doar Point, also on Kinloch Plantation, by Johnny L. Walker, who stated that it was part of a flock of "four or five" (pers. comm. to Milby Burton from Richard Stanland, manager of Kinloch Plantation; Charleston Museum files, Burton 1970). The specimen was not preserved (Burton 1970).

Among the five subspecies of Cackling Goose, *B. h. hutchinsii* has the easternmost breeding distribution (map in Schorger 1976): the Arctic coastal plain from Melville Peninsula, Mackenzie River Delta, east to Hudson Bay, Baffin Island, and western Greenland. *B. h. hutchinsii* migrates through the central Great Plains to and from wintering grounds on the Gulf of Mexico and is therefore the subspecies most likely to occur on the Atlantic coast.

Only a few occurrences have been documented for the southern Atlantic coast. All of the Florida reports are from Wakulla County on the Gulf Coast: one specimen, collected 24 December 1954, and two sight reports (Stoddard 1950, Stevenson and Anderson 1994). No specimens are known from Georgia (Burleigh 1958, Beaton et al. 2003).

Apparently, the only North Carolina specimen was taken near Brant Island, Currituck Sound, by W. H. DeForest, 15 November 1888 (McAtee 1926). The skin was mounted and placed in the Narrows Island Clubhouse near Poplar Branch (Pearson et al. 1942). Its current location is not known. Recently, North Carolina has had an increasing number of sightings of Cackling Goose: for example, Davis and Temple (*in* Davis 2004) reported three birds on Lake Mattamuskeet, 29 December 2003. Since the 1960s, birds have been sighted or collected as far north as Long Island, New York (Bull 1974).

Forbush (1929) said that the Cackling Goose was "apparently not very rare in the 19th century" and he listed several specimen records for New England. By about 1920, the species had become "a rare or accidental migrant". Numbers appear to have been greatly reduced during the market-hunting era of the early 20th Century. The increased number of recent sightings of Cackling Geese on the Atlantic Coast, especially from coastal North Carolina, suggests that the population may be increasing. No breeding population counts are available for *B. h. hutchinsii*, however (Mowbray et al. 2002).

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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Spring 2004, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: The ACE Basin area of south-coastal South Carolina once again hosted this species. This spring good numbers were present at Donnelley WMA with eight on April 9 (Lloyd Moon), four on April 24 (Royce Hough), and at least 12 on May 27 (Moon). It is generally believed that this flock, which has been present for several years, is of naturally occurring birds. Elsewhere, the origin of a flock of five

at the flooded fields along US 64 in Tyrrell County, NC May 17 is unknown (*vide* Jeff Lewis). Since there were other reports of wandering Black-bellieds farther north along the Atlantic Seaboard, it is quite likely that the Tyrrell County birds were naturally wandering also.

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE: One was a good find at Savannah NWR, SC March 12 (Liz Horsey, Jim Wilson). This was probably a lingering bird from the flock of 20+ birds that wintered in the nearby area.

TUNDRA SWAN: One, obviously sick or injured, spent the entire spring season at Bear Is. WMA, SC (Royce Hough, Nathan Dias, m. obs.).

EURASIAN WIGEON: The bird that was present at New Bern, NC during the winter was last seen March 7 (Al Gamache).

COMMON EIDER: Very rare in spring in the Carolinas, Common Eiders were surprising finds this season. An imm. male was at the east end of Ocean Isle Beach, NC March 27 (Taylor Piephoff) and a sub-adult male was near Harkers Is., NC on the very late date of May 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

SURF SCOTER: Rare inland, especially in spring, were eight (four males, four females) on L. Julian, NC March 18 (Tom Joyce et al.). Lingering Surf Scoters included one injured at North Pond, Pea Is. NWR, NC May 9 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas), a male at Coquina Beach near Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 (Ricky Davis), a female at Oregon Inlet May 28 (Judy Murray et al.), two at Ft. Fisher, NC May 29 (Davis), four at Caswell Beach, NC May 29 (Davis), and one there May 30 (Jeff Phippen).

BLACK SCOTER: There were several lingering Black Scoters found this spring as well. One was at Isle of Palms, SC May 20 (Bill & Paula Lisowski), a male was at Ft. Fisher, NC May 29 (Ricky Davis), and three were at Caswell Beach, NC May 30 (Jeff Phippen).

LONG-TAILED DUCK: Several Long-tailed Ducks lingered in North Carolina longer than usual this spring. Two were at the east end of Ocean Isle Beach during March until at least April 11 (Taylor Piephoff), and up to two were in the Ft. Macon area in April until at least May 10 (two, Randy Newman) and May 11 (one, John Fussell).

COMMON MERGANSER: A female was a good find on Spring Valley L., Whispering Pines, Moore County, NC April 10–14 (Susan Campbell). Also, two were very late at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC May 2 (Brian Bockhahn).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: A good count of nine was considered to be rare on the Jordan L., NC Spring Count May 2 (Norm Budnitz et al.).

RUDDY DUCK: A male in breeding plumage was very rare on the Chapel Hill, NC Spring Count May 9–10 (Barbara Roth et al., Will Cook) and was the first for that count since 1958!

RED-THROATED LOON: The Red-throated Loon present on L. Julian, NC from the winter season, was last observed as late as April 27 (Tom Joyce). Elsewhere one at Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 (Ricky Davis) was rather late.

RED-NECKED GREBE: One was a good find for the spring at Shallotte Inlet, NC April 9–11, as noted by Taylor Piephoff.

YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS: One was a complete surprise as it flew from the shore at C. Hatteras point, NC April 11 (Kevin Metcalf). The bird was watched briefly as it flew along the shore, sat in the water several times, and then flew off the beach toward Diamond Shoals. Photos should provide the state with its second documented record, pending acceptance by the NC Bird Records Committee.

HERALD PETREL: This species was found off North Carolina this spring in better-than-usual numbers. Off Hatteras, dark-morph Heralds were found May 23, 30, and 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Off Manteo, one dark-morph bird was found May 24, and two dark-morph birds were seen May 28 (Patteson, Inc.). On May 25 off Manteo, one light-morph and two intermediate birds were found while one light-morph was seen May 30 (Patteson, Inc.).

BLACK-CAPPED PETREL: The peak count off North Carolina this spring was 163 off Manteo May 28 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, 1–2 were off Murrell's Inlet May 14 (Jack Peachey) and 11 were off Charleston May 19 (Nathan Dias).

FEA'S PETREL: This spring's North Carolina offshore sightings involved one off Manteo May 21, one off Hatteras May 23, and two off Manteo May 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER: One off Charleston, SC April 10 was somewhat early (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar).

MANX SHEARWATER: One off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) was a good find for that state. In North Carolina, where decidedly more expected in spring, small numbers were seen off the Outer Banks with the peak counts being three off Hatteras May 29 and 31 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: The peak count off North Carolina was the 32 out of Hatteras May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). In South Carolina, good finds out of Charleston included one April 10, one May 19, and three May 30 (Nathan Dias et al.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: Off Charleston, SC 5–6 were good finds May 30 (Nathan Dias et al.). In North Carolina, the peak count reported was the 19 off Hatteras May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: There were three reports of this rare but almost annual species this spring. One was off Hatteras, NC May 14 (Brian Patteson), and immatures were off Manteo, NC May 25 and 29 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: One was seen from the boat just off the beach near Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.) for a most unusual report.

BROWN BOOBY: An immature was photographed on a channel marker near Morgan Is., Carteret County, NC April 15 (Jeff Cordes). This represented about the 14th report (comprising about 10–12 individuals) for that state.

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: This species continued to be found in the Carolinas more than usual this spring. In South Carolina, away from the

ACE Basin stronghold, 20 were at C. Romain NWR March 7 (Tim Kalbach). In North Carolina, very unusual inland sightings included 15 at L. Julian April 11 (Tim Lewis) and six at Jordan L. May 19–20 (Mark Flaughner, *fide* Will Cook). Coastal reports involved an impressive count of 45+ at the L. Landing area of L. Mattamuskeet March 7 (Ernie Marshall, *fide* Will Cook), four in the Cape Fear R. near Southport March 26 (Ricky Davis), and one on East Lake of Twin Lakes, Sunset Beach March 7–24 (Mary McDavit).

BROWN PELICAN: One was very rare and unusual at L. Townsend, Guilford County, NC April 10–20 (Emily Tyler). There has been a noticeable increase in the number of inland Brown Pelican sightings in the Carolinas the last couple of years.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT: This species continues to increase on the inland lakes and reservoirs as evidenced by the count of 2,220 at Falls L., NC March 26 (Brian Bockhahn).

GREAT CORMORANT: One was somewhat late at Oregon Inlet, NC May 19, as noted by Ricky Davis.

ANHINGA: Three seen dropping in from a great height near Trenton, NC March 7 were most likely early spring arrivals (Clancy Ballenger).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: This spring's frigatebird sightings involved young birds at Cedar Is., NC May 16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Donna Goodwin), Wrightsville Beach, NC and later Ft. Fisher May 26 (Ann & Chester Robertson, Oliver Alphin), and at Folly Beach Park, Folly Is., SC May 27 (Craig Watson).

AMERICAN BITTERN: Noteworthy sightings from the western portion of North Carolina included singles in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County April 20 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), at Reynolda Gardens, Forsyth County April 27–30 (*fide* Ramona Snaveley), and at Piney Creek, Alleghany County May 9 (James Coman III).

SNOWY EGRET: Inland Snowies this spring included two near Garners Ferry Rd., Richland County, SC April 11 (Tim Kalbach), one east of the Tugaloo R. on Rd. 160, Oconee County, SC May 1 (Robin Carter & Caroline Eastman), one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC May 2 (Wayne Forsythe), one at Raleigh, NC May 8 (*fide* John Connors), and one at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.).

TRICOLORED HERON: Considerably rarer inland in spring than the preceding species, one was a good find east of the Tugaloo R. on Rd. 160, Oconee County, SC May 1, as noted by Robin Carter and Caroline Eastman.

REDDISH EGRET: A white-morph individual was a very good find at Donnelley WMA, SC May 17 (Ken Allen). This species is very rare away from the immediate coastal flats and inlets.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: Two at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 14 were rare for the mountains, as noted by Don Hendershot and Bob Olthoff.

GLOSSY IBIS: Rare inland, especially in spring, was the Glossy at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR, SC April 17 (Mike Turner).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: Noteworthy anywhere in the Carolinas, single spoonbills were found at the north end of Folly Beach, SC during late April and early May (*fide* Dennis Forsythe), at S. Tibwin, Charleston County, SC May 14 (Craig Watson), and on the Outer Banks of North Carolina with a bird at Bodie Is. lighthouse pond May 19 until late in the month (Ricky Davis, m. obs.). The latter bird was also apparently present at nearby Pea Is. NWR several days earlier (*fide* Davis).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: The earliest returning Swallow-tailed was just north of Georgetown, SC on the very early date of March 7, as noted by Tim Kalbach. There were the usual North Carolina spring sightings this year. Very rare inland were singles at McAlpine Greenway, Charlotte April 24 (Judy Walker et al.) and along the Roanoke R., Martin County May 13 (John Stanton). More expected toward the coast were two near Riegelwood, Cape Fear R. April 26 (*fide* Sam Cooper), one near Sea Level, Carteret County April 15 (Sue Cameron), two over Millis Swamp Rd., Croatan National Forest April 28 (*fide* John Fussell), one at Sneads Ferry May 2 (Gilbert Grant), and one near Kitty Hawk May 31 (*fide* Skip Morgan).

MISSISSIPPI KITE: The best count reported was the 79 in a “swarm” near Wedgefield, Sumter County, SC May 5 (Lloyd Moon). In North Carolina, rare far inland were two at Jackson Park, Hendersonville May 9, as noted by Ron Selvey. Also locally noteworthy were singles at Cedar Island May 16 (John Fussell, Jack Fennell, Donna Goodwin), along the Neuse R. Trail, Raleigh May 17 (Clyde Smith), over Roanoke Island May 24 (Jeff Lewis), and at Ocracoke in late May (Susse Wright).

SWAINSON’S HAWK: An adult Swainson’s was seen in flight near Santee NWR, Clarendon County, SC April 3 (Lloyd Moon). The bird was described well and is only about the fourth report for that state, pending acceptance by the SC Bird Records Committee.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: An immature was found near Roper, Washington County, NC April 3 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff). Spring season reports of this hawk are quite unusual.

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were multiple Golden Eagle sightings in North Carolina this spring. An immature was at Whiterock, Madison County, March 20 (*fide* David Rupp), another immature was along Meat Camp Rd. at the Ashe/Watauga Counties line March 28 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), an adult was over Devil’s Courthouse April 28 (David Rupp), and one was at Bakers Mt., Catawba County May 15 (John Sutton).

AMERICAN KESTREL: Rare and unusual along the immediate coast during the breeding season, an American Kestrel was a surprise at Sunset Beach, NC May 30 (Ricky Davis). Of interest was that the bird was seen to catch and eat a young starling!

MERLIN: Noteworthy inland spring Merlins included one in southwest Moore County, NC March 7 (Harry LeGrand, Jr., Jeff Beane) and one in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC March 21, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Marilyn Westphal).

PEREGRINE FALCON: Unusual inland were the two flying over highway 15/501 near Chapel Hill, NC April 28 (Sandy Cash). Also one at Coquina Beach near Oregon Inlet, NC May 19 was somewhat late for that area (Ricky Davis).

CLAPPER RAIL: One was found dead on a street in downtown Charlotte, NC April 26 (Taylor Piephoff). Photos seem to indicate that this individual was of the "Atlantic" race, not the Gulf Coast race. We need to learn more about the normal movements of coastal species like this.

PURPLE GALLINULE: One was locally very rare and unexpected at Ocracoke, NC April 24 (Temple Pearson et al.). This bird was quite out of place as it was seen walking off the road toward the beach!

SANDHILL CRANE: South Carolina had a couple of reports this spring with two at Beaverdam WMA, Townville May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.) and two at Bear Is. WMA April 24 (Nathan Dias) and May 21 (Steve Wagner).

WHOOPING CRANE: Causing much excitement were the eight young Whooping Cranes from the Florida re-introduction program that wandered too far east and landed near the Little Tennessee R. north of Franklin, NC April 1-3 (m. obs.). Observers need to remember that these birds are guarded and watched closely by the program personnel and that any contact with humans (birdwatchers, etc.) is strictly frowned upon.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: Locally unusual were two at the Cedar Is., NC ferry terminal area May 15 (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and one there May 16 (John Fussell et al.).

AMERICAN AVOCET: One at Sandling Beach, Falls L., NC May 2 provided a rare inland spring sighting (Brian Bockhahn).

WILLET: One was photographed at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 26 (Don Hendershot, Bob Olthoff, Wayne Forsythe). This species is rare inland during spring, and extremely rare anytime in the mountains.

MARBLED GODWIT: A count of 450 Marbleds was made at the soundside flats on Ocracoke Is., NC April 5 (Peter Vankevich). There hasn't been a count that impressive in North Carolina for many years.

RUDDY TURNSTONE: One was a locally good find inland at the Dobbins Farm, Townville, SC May 18 (Steve Patterson et al.).

SANDERLING: Two at the Hickory Hill boat ramp, Falls L., NC April 25 (Sandy Cash, sev. obs.) were the only inland migrants reported.

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER: Extremely rare in spring anywhere in the Carolinas, one was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC April 15-17 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff, Jonathan Mays). Representing only the third spring report for North Carolina, it was the first for April.

PURPLE SANDPIPER: One in alternate plumage, at the jetty at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC May 30 (Stephen & Barbara Thomas), was extremely late.

CURLEW SANDPIPER: One was photographed at the Savannah Spoil Site, Jasper County, SC May 31 (Steve Calver). Extremely rare in South Carolina, this bird provided only about the fourth report for that state.

RUFF: A female (Reeve) was a very good find at Bear Is. WMA, SC April 20 (Dennis Forsythe). This was about the fifth April sighting for that state.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: A female and young were observed at the Wambaw Creek Wilderness, Francis Marion Nat. Forest, SC March 28 (Nathan Dias, Burton Moore, Ed Kinney). Nesting by this species is rarely noted in the Carolinas, and much needs to be learned about the local breeding status throughout both states.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: Only one was reported this spring, that being at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 28, as noted by Steve Calver.

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE: A count of 450 off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) was truly astounding. This almost doubles the previous high count for the species in the Carolinas. Elsewhere onshore sightings included five at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC May 19 (Steve Calver) and one at the Brunswick County, NC airport May 30 (Jeff Phippen).

RED PHALAROPE: An excellent count of 350 was had off Charleston, SC April 10, as noted by Nathan Dias and Chuck Hocevar. In North Carolina, two were found off C. Lookout March 24 (Jack Fennell).

SOUTH POLAR SKUA: This species had one of its better springs off North Carolina this year with five different birds being found off Manteo and Hatteras spanning the period May 21–30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

PARASITIC JAEGER: Singles were good finds off Charleston, SC April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) and May 19 (Dias). An adult light-morph bird was a good find onshore at Hilton Head Is., SC April 3, as noted by Jim Mulholland.

LAUGHING GULL: The only inland Laughing Gull report received was of two at Falls L., NC May 2 (Brian Bockhahn).

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: An adult was a good find for the spring season inland at Falls L., NC March 13 (Ricky Davis).

GLAUCOUS GULL: A rare spring sighting was the first-winter-plumaged Glaucous found at the Beaufort, NC waterfront April 24 (John Fussell et al.).

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Two (one adult, one first-winter) were at Falls L., NC March 13, as noted by Ricky Davis.

CASPIAN TERN: The best inland migrant count reported was the 18 Caspians at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC April 30 (Dwayne Martin). The farthest inland was the single Caspian at L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC April 26 (Don Hendershot, Wayne Forsythe).

ARCTIC TERN: In South Carolina, where quite rare, one was off Murrell's Inlet May 14 (Jack Peachey) and four were off Charleston May 19 (Nathan Dias). There are only about 3–5 previous reports for that state. In North Carolina, where much more expected offshore in spring, the peak count was six off Manteo May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Others included two off Hatteras May 22 and 23, and one off Manteo May 28 (Patteson, Inc.).

LEAST TERN: One was very rare inland at a pond near Stateburg, Sumter County, SC May 17, as noted by Mike Turner.

BRIDLED TERN: Numbers were down off North Carolina as is often the case in spring. The peak count was five off Manteo May 30 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Good South Carolina sightings involved two off Charleston April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar) and one off Charleston May 30 (Dias et al.). The April birds were very early for that species off the Carolina coast.

SOOTY TERN: In North Carolina, this species was found offshore only once, that being two off Manteo May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Onshore one was a good find in the C. Fear R. near Southport April 17 (Mark Hoffman et al.). South Carolina reports off Charleston included one on April 10 (Nathan Dias, Chuck Hocevar), two on May 19 (Dias), and one on May 30 (Dias et al.).

DOVEKIE: Two were found in the Atlantic Beach area of North Carolina this spring. One was found sick and taken to an animal shelter on March 4, where it later died (*fide* John Fussell). Another was found dead on the beach on March 5 (Fussell).

THICK-BILLED MURRE: One was found injured on the beach at Ocracoke, NC March 19 and was brought to a local rehabber (*fide* Elizabeth Hanrahan). There are only about 9–10 reports of this species for that state.

RAZORBILL: As with the Dovekie, several of this species were found dead in the central North Carolina coastal area. One was found off C. Lookout March 3 (*fide* John Fussell) and one was found at Ft. Macon March 5 (Randy Newman). Live Razorbills included three flying past Atlantic Beach March 7 (Fussell, Jack Fennell, Bob Holmes), one at Ft. Macon March 23 (Newman), and one off C. Lookout March 24 (Fennell).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One was at a feeder in Shelby, NC April 15 (*fide* Taylor Piephoff) for a very rare occurrence that far west in the state.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: North Carolina had the only reports of this secretive species. Singles were found at Winston-Salem May 6 (Chester Robertson, Bert Hollifield), at Asheville May 8 (*fide* Marilyn Westphal), at Piney Creek, Alleghany County May 14 (James Coman III), at Jackson Park, Hendersonville May 17 (Ron Selvey), and at Balsam Mt. campground, Great Smoky Mts. Nat. Park May 27 (Gail Lankford).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK: One was an unexpected find far offshore out of Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

WHIP-POOR-WILL: One was very early in s. Moore County, NC March 5 (Jeff Beane).

BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD: An adult female, present during the winter, was finally banded at Hilton Head Is., SC March 21 (Gary Phillips).

PILEATED WOODPECKER: A most impressive total of 50 Pileateds was had on the Milltail Creek BBS, Dare County, NC May 30 (Merrill Lynch). This provides a new one-day count for the species in that state.

ALDER FLYCATCHER: A singing Alder was found at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 16 (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff) for a locally rare report.

LEAST FLYCATCHER: Even rarer was the singing Least found at Eno R. St. Pk., Durham, NC May 5 (Harry LeGrand, Jr.).

VERMILION FLYCATCHER: An adult male was a surprise near Lexington, SC May 29–30 (Donna Slyce and Mac Sharpe, Billy Fuller). This bird provided about the third inland report for that state.

WESTERN KINGBIRD: A very rare spring report for the Carolinas, one was on James Is., SC April 17 (Chris Hill et al.).

EASTERN KINGBIRD: One was a rare find offshore out of Hatteras, NC May 22 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

GRAY KINGBIRD: The only report received of this very localized, rare species involved one on Edisto Is., SC April 18 (Sid Gauthreaux, Jr. et al.).

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: One returned to the Monroe, NC site of past years April 19 (Anne Olsen), but did not stay. One was seen near Monroe along highway 74/76 May 11 (Greg Massey). One wonders if the birds moved to the second sighting area this year. In South Carolina one was a good find near Brattonsville, York County, SC May 28 (Billy Fuller, Bob Maxwell) and 30 (J. B. Hines).

WARBLING VIREO: The breeding pair returned to the Anilorac Farm site, Orange County, NC by May 8 (*fide* Will Cook), for the fourth year in a row.

PHILADELPHIA VIREO: Rare in spring, two were excellent finds at Bethabara Park, Winston-Salem, NC May 1 (Royce Hough, Ann Newsome).

HORNED LARK: One at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC May 10 was considered quite late since the species is not known to breed locally (Wayne Forsythe, Bob Olthoff).

BARN SWALLOW: A pair seen feeding young in the nest in Jacksonville, NC March 30 (Buddy Garrett) provided a rather early breeding date for our area.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH: One found near Winnabow, Brunswick County, NC was extremely early on April 11, as noted by Greg Massey.

BICKNELL'S THRUSH: One was banded and photographed at Howell Woods, Johnston County, NC May 5 (Brian Strong et al., *fide* Harry LeGrand, Jr.). This should provide that state with its third documented occurrence, pending acceptance by the NC Bird Records Committee.

WOOD THRUSH: One was seen and heard at Howell Woods, NC on the very early date of March 23 (David Williams).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER: One was a surprise far offshore out of Manteo, NC May 21 (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER: Somewhat early spring returnees were the two in the Croatan Nat. Forest, NC March 19 (John Fussell) and the one at the Alligator R. NWR, NC March 21 (Jeff Lewis).

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One at Mill Branch Rd., Croatan Nat. Forest, NC March 2 was probably an over-wintering bird (Al Gamache). One at Black Mountain, NC March 3, however, was most likely an absurdly early spring migrant (Stu Gibeau).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: One in Georgetown County, SC May 8 (Alice & Hal Vivian, *fide* Jack Peachey) was a locally good find for the spring season.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: A Prothonotary in the French Broad R. valley, Henderson County, NC April 27 (Wayne Forsythe, Marilyn Westphal) was an excellent find for that mountain locality. Definitely unusual in the place and date was the Prothonotary found offshore out of Hatteras, NC on the very late date of May 29 (Brian Patteson, Inc.). This bird was not only in the wrong place, it was extremely tardy for a spring migrant.

CONNECTICUT WARBLER: Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC had the only Connecticut this spring with one there May 14 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey), and two there May 17 (Selvey).

MOURNING WARBLER: The only report received was of a male at Jackson Park, Hendersonville, NC May 6–7, as noted by Wayne Forsythe and Ron Selvey.

WESTERN Tanager: There were two reports of this annually-occurring species this spring. A female was at a feeder in Albemarle, Stanly County, NC March 7–11 (M. K. Morrison) and a first-year male was in the Roanoke R. NWR, NC April 23 (Rich & Susan Boyd). Interestingly, the latter bird was heard singing, an occurrence that probably has not happened much before in the Carolinas.

CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: The North R., Carteret County, NC wintering Clay-coloredreds were last observed as late as April 25 when two were still present (John Fussell). Elsewhere, rare spring sightings involved one on James Is., SC April 17 (Chris Hill et al.), one at the Savannah Spoil Site, SC April 21 (Steve Calver et al.), and one in the mountains at Table Rock St. Pk., SC May 4 (Jeff Catlin, Scott Stegenga).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW: A locally very rare spring migrant Henslow's was a good find at the NCSU farms in southwest Raleigh, NC May 8 (Jim Mulholland et al.).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW: This spring's Lincoln's reports included singles at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC April 11 (Dwayne Martin), on the Durham, NC Spring Count April 25 (Will Cook), and at Mills River, Henderson County, NC April 29 (Wayne Forsythe).

HARRIS'S SPARROW: North Carolina got about its sixth Harris's Sparrow when one was at a feeder in Winnabow, Brunswick County April 20–25 (Earl Cooke, m. obs.).

SMITH'S LONGSPUR: One was photographed at Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC March 26 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey). The bird was with two Lapland Longspurs for comparison, and if accepted, would provide the fourth for North Carolina.

SNOW BUNTING: This species is rarely found in the Carolinas in spring; thus of note were two in North Carolina this season. The first was an alternate-plumaged male out of place in a yard in Zebulon, Wake County April 10–11 (Dave Osborn), furnishing only the fifth April report for the state. The second was an alternate-plumaged female on the jetty at Oregon

Inlet May 6 (Harry Timmons et al., *fide* Skip Morgan) and again May 9 (Jeff Lewis, Joan Kutulas) for the first North Carolina sighting in May.

PAINTED BUNTING: This species turned up at several inland sites this spring. The farthest inland, and most amazing, was the adult male photographed at a feeder in Asheville, NC March 11–12 (Marilyn Westphal, Simon Thompson, JoAnn Martin), providing a first documented occurrence for the mountains. Other rare inland sightings involved a green bird at a feeder in Greensboro, NC May 7–8 (Don & Carolyn Allen, sev. obs.) and a female at a feeder in Fayetteville, NC May 2 (Bill Warfel).

DICKCISSEL: Fewer Dickcissels were reported this spring than in the past several years. One was singing at Alligator R. NWR, NC May 11 (Jeff Lewis), one was near Fishing Creek, Halifax County, NC May 29 (Ricky Davis), and two pairs were at a farm in e. Franklin County, NC May 11 on into June (Davis).

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: Only one was reported this spring, that being an immature male off SC 41 n. of Mt. Pleasant, SC May 4–5 (Bob Chinn, Ed Blitch).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD: A good count for North Carolina was the 31 Brewer's found at the Open Grounds farm, Carteret County March 5, as noted by John Fussell and Jack Fennell.

BOAT-TAILED GRACKLE: This strictly coastal species has been found at some inland sites the last couple of years. In South Carolina, two were at the Bluff Unit, Santee NWR April 24 and up to eight were at the nearby Pine Is. Unit, Santee NWR May 8 (Mike Turner). In North Carolina, one was 20 miles inland at Jacksonville May 10, as noted by Buddy Garrett.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Quite amazing was the discovery of a pair nesting at a golf course east of Greenville, NC May 30 (John Wright). The male was seen carrying food to a nest to document a very rare nesting away from our mountains.

RED CROSSBILL: Always noteworthy, this spring's Red Crossbill sightings involved a pair near Santeetlah Gap, Graham County, NC April 19 (Owen & Pat McConnell), eight at Mt. Mitchell, NC May 6 (Greg Massey), and two at Balsam Gap near Mt. Mitchell, NC May 29 (Wayne Forsythe, Ron Selvey).

COMMON REDPOLL: Very rare and unexpected was the female Common Redpoll at a feeder in Charleston, SC March 5–7 (Nathan Dias, sev. obs.). This was about the 14th or 15th report for that state.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB

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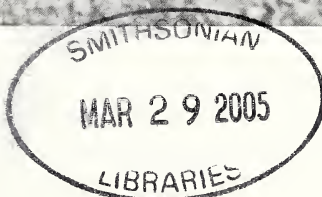
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THE CHAT

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General Field Notes Editors

North Carolina

South Carolina

Briefs for the Files

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Brown Noddy at nest site in Lesser Antilles, June 1983, Will Post.
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2004 Spring Migration Counts in North Carolina

Marilyn Westphal

230 Park Lane, Hendersonville, NC 28791 mjwestphal@unca.edu

Sixteen North Carolina count areas submitted data for the 2004 spring migration count: five from the mountains, ten from the piedmont, and one from the coastal plain. There were a total of 334 participants and 958.50 party-hours. Stone Mountain and Mount Jefferson had the smallest number of participants with just three each (8.25 and 12.00 party-hours respectively), and Jordan Lake had the largest number of participants with 47 (141.25 party-hours). The counts included 69,690 individuals and 221 species and an average of 66.46 birds per party-hour. Note that the count from Southern Pines is not included in this calculation because no party-hour data were available. The count area with the highest number of individuals per party-hour was Onslow County, the only count from the coastal plain, with 99.89 birds per party-hour. Highest number per party-hour in the piedmont was Kerr Lake at 96.04 birds per party-hour, and in the mountains it was Buncombe County with 81.80 birds per party-hour. Note that with only one count from the coastal plain, analysis of results by section of the state is not as balanced as it could be. Hopefully more sectors in the coastal plain will participate next year.

Twenty-two species were found in every count area, and the species with the highest count totals were Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, European Starling, and Mourning Dove. Forty-seven species were “exclusives” found only in one count area (Table 1). Of these, 33 were from Onslow County where the only coastal count was conducted.

Table 1. Number of species exclusive to a count

Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plain
Transylvania County – 1	Forsyth County – 2	Onslow County – 33
Buncombe County – 2	Jordan Lake – 1	
Henderson County – 2	Wake County – 3	
Mount Jefferson – 1	Kerr Lake – 1	

There were 14 species exclusive to the mountains, 14 exclusive to the piedmont, and 33 exclusive to the coastal plain (Table 2).

Table 2. Species exclusive to a region.

Mountains		Piedmont	
Ruffed Grouse	Golden-crowned	Black-crowned Night-	Bank Swallow
Wilson's Snipe	Kinglet	Heron	Cliff Swallow
Black-billed Cuckoo	"Lawrence's"	Yellow-crowned	American Pipit
Least Flycatcher	Warbler	Night-Heron	Blue-winged
Warbling Vireo	Bay-breasted	Bald Eagle	Warbler
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Warbler	King Rail	Henslow's
Brown Creeper	Dark-eyed Junco	American Woodcock	Sparrow
Winter Wren	Pine Siskin	Loggerhead Shrike	Rusty Blackbird
Marsh Wren		Philadelphia Vireo	Purple Finch

Coastal Plain			
Bufflehead	Clapper Rail	Whimbrel	Forster's Tern
Red-throated Loon	Sora	Ruddy Turnstone	Least Tern
Northern Gannet	Black-bellied Plover	Red Knot	Black Skimmer
Brown Pelican	Wilson's Plover	Dunlin	Nelson's Sharp-
American Bittern	Piping Plover	Short-billed	tailed Sparrow
Least Bittern	American	Dowitcher	Seaside Sparrow
Little Blue Heron	Oystercatcher	Great Black-backed	Painted Bunting
Tricolored Heron	Black-necked Stilt	Gull	Boat-tailed
Cattle Egret	Willet	Royal Tern	Grackle
White Ibis		Common Tern	

Most species on the exclusives lists are no surprise to most birders in the Carolinas. Birders familiar with the state expect to find more shorebirds and wading birds on the coast, expect to find various songbirds in the forested inland areas, and expect certain colder-climate birds in the high-elevation mountains. But there are also many interesting trends for species that are thought of as statewide or nearly statewide residents. Table 3 lists examples of some of the regional trends in species count per party-hour of birding. Distribution of these birds is largely by climate and habitat preference, and it reflects these differences in each section of the state.

"Individuals per party-hour" is the number of individual birds of each species divided by the total time in the field for each group of birders in the count. For example, if a count circle is divided into 10 groups of birders (it doesn't matter how many people are in each group or "party") and each group ("party") birds for 8 hours, the total party-hours are 80. Since some areas are much more heavily populated and there are many more birders and more "parties" doing a count, this is a much more balanced method of determining relative bird numbers than comparing total bird numbers. It better reflects the probability of finding a particular species in each area.

Table 3. Regional trends in birds per party-hour

Species	Mountains	Piedmont	Coastal Plain
Flycatchers			
Eastern Phoebe	0.68	0.21	0.00
Great Crested Flycatcher	0.12	0.41	1.81
Eastern Kingbird	0.19	0.41	0.81
Vireos			
White-eyed Vireo	0.14	0.26	0.45
Yellow-throated Vireo	0.05	0.12	0.24
Blue-headed Vireo	0.70	0.06	0.00
Red-eyed Vireo	1.48	1.50	0.56
Swallows			
Tree Swallow	0.76	0.11	0.07
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	0.69	0.45	0.29
Cliff Swallow	0.00	0.72	0.00
Barn Swallow	1.19	0.99	3.18
Nuthatches and Wrens			
White-breasted Nuthatch	0.24	0.18	0.04
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0.03	0.32	0.35
Carolina Wren	1.28	1.90	0.88
House Wren	0.29	0.16	0.00
Warblers			
Northern Parula	0.25	0.50	0.67
Black-throated Blue Warbler	0.47	0.27	0.00
Yellow-throated Warbler	0.09	0.22	0.53
Pine Warbler	0.01	0.81	0.54
Prairie Warbler	0.00	0.29	0.88
Black-and-white Warbler	0.54	0.19	0.11
Ovenbird	1.08	0.59	0.22
Common Yellowthroat	0.47	0.78	1.02
Hooded Warbler	0.74	0.19	0.22
Yellow-breasted Chat	0.07	0.26	0.50
Tanagers			
Summer Tanager	0.00	0.47	0.52
Scarlet Tanager	0.42	0.24	0.00
Sparrows			
Eastern Towhee	2.00	1.29	0.93
Chipping Sparrow	0.53	0.79	0.61
Field Sparrow	0.38	0.22	0.00
Song Sparrow	3.30	0.42	0.00

The complete list of species, numbers, and effort follows in Table 4 after the count area details.

Count Area Details

Mountains

Transylvania County – count date 8 May, 111 species, 2956 individuals, 27 participants, 75.00 party-hours. Compiler: Norma Siebenheller

Participants: Kathy Bartt, Dick Blee, Pat Bohan, Don and Ruth Duncan, Elizabeth Galloway, Jeanne Grimmenga, Jean and Bill Hough, Jack Hudson, Betty Jones, John Kaup, Ludwig Kempe, Ruth Klock, Mary Maxwell, Lucy McGuirt, Betty McIlwain, Bill and Suzanne Moore, Mary Sauerteig, Bill and Norma Siebenheller, Shirl Thomas, Dick Thorsell, Connie Updike, Barbara Williams, David Willoughby.

Exclusives: "Lawrence's" Warbler

Buncombe County – count date 9 May, 119 species, 5317 individuals, 20 participants, 65.00 party-hours. Compiler: Marilyn Westphal (mjwestphal@unca.edu)

Participants: Kimberly Childs, Bill Fisk, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Jenny Konwinski, Tim Lewis, John Lindfors, Greg Massey, Jonathan Mays, Janie Owens, Len Pardue, Kittie and Lee Reynolds (and student), Ben and Carol Ringer, Ray Sharpton, Tom Tribble, Lou Weber, Marilyn Westphal.

Exclusives: Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Siskin

Notes: What a gorgeous day it was for a spring migration count! The wonderful weather, combined with the early count date, and, of course, a group of 20 enthusiastic participants in seven groups, produced a record number of species (119) and a record number of birds (5317) for the Buncombe County (Asheville area) count. Vireos and warblers were plentiful, with a total of five species of vireos and 26 species of warblers.

Other birds more specific to the mountains included four Ruffed Grouse, eight Winter Wrens, eight Golden-crowned Kinglets, 12 Veeries, 31 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 54 Dark-eyed Juncos, and a Common Raven. Other interesting birds included a Black-billed Cuckoo in the Warren-Wilson College section, probably a migrant, and two singing Hermit Thrushes at high elevation. One of the Hermit Thrushes was at Balsam Gap on the Buncombe/Yancy County line, and the other was at Craggy Gardens near Craggy Pinnacle. These may be breeding birds. Hermit Thrush was found breeding in the Balsam Gap area last year.

Marilyn Westphal

Henderson County – count date 8 May, 115 species, 3142 individuals, 15 participants, 41.80 party-hours. Count coordinators: Jim and Barbara Neal (jlbjneal@bellsouth.net)

Participants: James Craig, Judy Deutsch, Bill Fisk, Peggy Franklin, Charlotte Goedsche, Andrea Hessey, Nora Murdock, Barbara Neal, Harvey Neal, James Neal, Frances Ogasawara, Bob Olthoff, Janie Owens, Ron Selvey, Marilyn Westphal

Exclusives: Wilson's Snipe, Marsh Wren

Notes: The relatively early date of the count meant that more late-departing over-wintering birds were found. Many more winter sparrows than usual were counted including 22 Savannah Sparrows, six White-throated Sparrows, 10 White-crowned Sparrows, a Swamp Sparrow, and a pair of Lincoln's Sparrows. Other lingering migrants included 11 Palm Warblers, a Wilson's Snipe, and three Marsh Wrens.

Three Swainson's Warblers were once again found in the Green River area, and Western Sandpiper, Black-billed Cuckoo, Gray-cheeked Thrush, and Warbling Vireo were found for the first time on this count. Although the total bird count was not a record, the total species count (115) was a record for this count.

Marilyn Westphal

Stone Mountain – count date 8 May, 44 species, 252 individuals, three participants, 8.25 party-hours. Compiler: John MacConnell

Participants: Norman and Petie Bass, Jim Keighton

Mount Jefferson – count date 8 May, 73 species, 603 individuals, three participants, 12.00 party-hours. Compiler: Peter Zwadyk (pzwadyk@fastransit.net)

Participants: Glen Eller, Peter and Sally Zwadyk

Exclusives: Least Flycatcher

Piedmont

Catawba County – count date 8 May, 110 species, 1573 individuals, six participants, 48.50 party-hours. Compiler: Dwayne Martin (redxbill@netzero.com)

Participants: Gerry Fedde, Dwayne Martin, Lori Martin, Monroe Pannell, Blair Rayfield Jr., John Sutton

Forsyth County – count date 1 May, 112 species, 5006 individuals, 45 participants, 106.00 party hours. Compiler: Phil Dickinson (pdickins@triad.rr.com)

Participants: Jim Martin, Susan Rupp, Sven Halling, Ann Newsome, Royce Huff, John Carter, Lee Carter, Tom Mobray, Phil Dickinson, Bill Hammond, Susan Hammond, John Hammond, Cynthia Donaldson, Bill Jackson, Cindy Thompson, Ga Baliga, Andrew Pruette, Gina Pruette, Jim May, David Shuford, Michael Baker, Lloyd Ramsey, David Disher, Susan Disher, Hop Hopkins, Paul Powers, Ramona Snavelly, Ann Robertson, Chester Robertson, Hattie Hauser, Margaret Cochrane, Barbara Kendrick, Gray Tuttle, Bill Sugg, Ray Kandt, Doug DeNeve, Ellen Kirkman, Janice Ovelman, Jeff Turner, Gardner Gidley, Bill Gifford, Bert Hollifield, Margaret Gidley, Fran Shelton, Myrna Harris

Exclusives: Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Philadelphia Vireo

Notes: Weather conditions: clouds and rain, low 70s. The weather probably accounts for low warbler numbers; no singing. Phil Dickinson

Greensboro – count date 1 May, 114 species, 6563 species, 22 participants, 85.50 party-hours.

Compiler: Donald Allen (Texallennc@aol.com)

Participants: Carolyn Allen, Donald Allen, Louise Brown, Sue Cole, Scott DePue, Larry Gasper, Herbert Hendrickson, Nancy Hunt, Phillip Kellam, Jane Lewis, Elizabeth Link, Henry Link, Jean McCoy, Gregg Morris, Lynn Moseley, Jean Murdick, Deirdre Poe, Audrey Sheldon, Tom Shepherd, Lauren Spence, Emily Tyler, Ann Walters-Fromson

Southern Pines – count date 25 April, 120 species, 5984 individuals, 29 participants. Compiler: Susan Campbell

Participants: Susan Campbell, J. H. Carter III, Dick Dole, Lois Dole, Ruth Forester, Charlotte Gantz, Scott Hartley, Carol Hay, Chris Helms, Erich Hoffman, Pat Hoffman, Wayne Irvin, Marion Jones, David McCloy, Michael McCloy, Robert McLeod, Bob Perkins, Dan Peironi, Kerry Sadler, Jesse Schillachi, Jennifer Smith, Bruce Sorrie, Mary Stephenson, Lowell Strine, Susan Strine, Vaud Travis, Libba Watson, Rex Badgett, Jeff Irwin

Chapel Hill – count date 9 May, 121 species, 9529 individuals, 37 participants, 123.95 party-hours. Compiler: Will Cook (cwcook@duke.edu)

Participants: Sam Baron, Brian Bockhahn, Norm Budnitz, Chris Canfield, Bob Chase, Will Cook, Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Denny Dobbins, Beth Duncan, Kent Fiala, Kate Finlayson, John Frederick, Marie Graves, Maurice Graves, Steven Graves, Perry Haaland, Alan Johnston, Betty King, Ken Lundstrom, Yasushi Masuda, Lisa Merschel, David Murdock, Shantanu Phukan, Steve Quinley, Barbara Roth, Harriet Sato, Lois Schultz, Mike Schultz, Doug Shadwick, Mike Skakuj, Hal Snyder, Kirsten Snyder, Judy Teague, Pam Timmons, Amalie Tuffin, Bob Winstead

Notes: The 2004 Chapel Hill spring count on May 9 was a fairly average count, bringing us back to ground after a great one last year. We found 121 species (near the 10-year average of 122) and 9529 birds (slightly below the average of 10,067). The number of birds per party-hour, however, was a very high 76.8, well above the average 67. This is the second highest in recent history, behind last year's 82.6. The reason this year's count was only average was the relatively low level of participation, the lowest since 1996. This year's 37 counters in 17 parties is well below the average 49 counters in 23 parties, and we had only 124 party-hours (average 156).

As usual, we did have a few goodies. The best bird was the beautiful breeding-plumaged male Ruddy Duck at Clark Lake in Chapel Hill, found by the team of Betty King, Barbara Roth, and Judy Teague. He was still present the next day when I went to look, but disappeared later in the week. This is only our second Ruddy on a spring count, our first since 1958! Another great find was a group of 4 Hooded Mergansers seen by Doug Shadwick at Jordan Lake – only our third, as well as a record high. Kent Fiala also had an outstanding day, hearing a Greater Yellowlegs at the

former sewage plant off Sandy Creek Road in Durham (our first since 1988) and flushing an American Woodcock near Hollow Rock, New Hope Creek (our first since 1990). Another party reported 3 Anhingas in flight, but the details were not convincing enough to include in the final report.

Record highs were very few. In fact, the only one we set, apart from the Hooded Mergansers mentioned above, was for Carolina Wren. The astounding total of 495 smashes the previous record of 447 in 2002. This is even more astounding considering this year's low number of party-hours. That works out to 4.0 Carolina Wrens per party hour; the next nearest total is just 2.4. Why were there so many Carolina Wrens this spring? Also high, but not record counts, were Least Sandpiper (18, average 5) and Acadian Flycatcher (78, average 49).

We did set a record low, thought not an unexpected one. Continuing a long decline, this year's paltry showing of 12 Field Sparrows (average 38) beats the low of 15 we had in 1960. I couldn't find even one at Mason Farm. We also counted just 12 Eastern Meadowlarks (average 31), matching the record low set last year. We also had remarkably low numbers for Red-shouldered Hawk (19, average 29), Red-tailed Hawk (11, average 32), and European Starling (227, average 406).

Honors this year for highest species count goes once again to Doug Shadwick with 80, who covers the excellent Old Hope Valley Farm Road area nestled between the New Hope Creek and Morgan Creek arms of Jordan Lake. Top individual count goes to Bob Chase with 781 birds, barely nudging out three other parties who were within 10 birds.

Weather in brief: low 63, high 85; no precipitation; wind SW 5–15 mph; cloudy in morning, sunny in the afternoon.

Charles W. "Will" Cook

Jordan Lake – count date 2 May, 122 species, 7698 individuals, 47 participants, 141.25 party-hours. Compiler: Norm Budnitz (Norman.budnitz@duke.edu)

Participants: Stephen Chandler, Bobbie Collins-Perry, Todd Bishop, Mike Giles, Kyle Mills, Mickey Mills, Phil Manning, Rick Payne, Ginger Travis, Doug Pawlak, Bob Chase, Ron and Lydia Hodgson, Carl and Loren Hintz, Margaret Vimmerstedt, Mary Bratton, Willard Hartman, Chip Konrad, Melinda Meade, Peg Schultz, Will Cook, Roger Rittmaster, Yasushi Masuda, Barbara and Terry Logue, Fran Hommersand, Jennifer Maher, Russell Herman, Jennifer Shoemaker, Phillip Warren, Harold Carter, Magnus Persmark, Carol Williamson, Norm Budnitz, Betty King, Barbara Roth, Judy Teague, Jeremy Wrenn, Perry Haaland, Pam Timmons, Sandra and Harry Shoffner, Anson Cooke, Dwayne Cooke, Bob Winstead, Rouse Wilson

Exclusives: Bank Swallow

Notes: May 2, 2004, was a mostly overcast day with temperatures ranging from 68°F in the morning to 75°F in the afternoon. We had one downpour of heavy rain from about 0830 to 0930 that confined folks to their

cars and soaked some of us who were hiking too far from any real cover. Winds were calm to 5 mph. Forty-seven observers in 22 parties counted 7698 individuals (below our 10-year average: 8610) of 122 species (same as last year and below our 10-year average: 126), during 141 hours in the field (10-year average: 150).

Harold Carter found a beautiful male Canada Warbler behind the bathhouse at the Seaforth boat ramp, last seen on our count in 1992! And two parties found Northern Harriers (Carl Hintz, Loren Hintz, and Margaret Vimmerstedt at Parker's Creek, and Rouse Wilson near Haywood), only seen one other time in the past 10 years! Other good birds this year: Great Egret (Ginger Travis), Red-breasted Merganser (Bobbie Collins-Perry/Stephen Chandler and Norm Budnitz), American Kestrel (Rouse Wilson), Veery (Rouse Wilson), and Purple Finch (Todd Bishop, Mike Giles, Kyle and Micky Mills). As you can see, Rouse Wilson had a very nice day!

We recorded 4 species in new record high numbers: Red-breasted Merganser (9), Wild Turkey (5), Black-and-white Warbler (60), and Purple Finch (5).

Norm Budnitz

Durham – count date 25 April, 124 species, 5989 individuals, 23 participants, 76.00 party-hours. Compiler: Mike Schultz (ross.gull@verizon.net)

Participants:

Notes: The best birds were two Sanderlings, a first for the Durham Count. The birds were first observed by Sandy Cash, who was unsure of the ID, so Lois Schultz, myself and Norm Budnitz checked them out, and found two winter-plumaged Sanderlings at the Redwood boat ramp of Falls Lake. They were in typical winter plumage, mostly white with a dark black crescent at the bend of the wing. Legs were dark, and overall body shape and size were consistent with Sanderling. Also, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker came to Edith Tatum's suet feeder. She had many good looks for several days. The bird had a red throat. And finally a Lincoln's Sparrow was observed by Will Cook.

Mike Schultz

Wake County – count date 8 May, 119 species, 3810 individuals, 27 participants, 54.50 party-hours.

Compiler: John Connors (John.Connors@ncmail.net)

Participants: Julie Angerman-Stewart, John Argentati, William Braezeale, Edward Brown, Joe Bearden, Karen Bearden, June Beyman, Halbert Carmichael, Jan Folmer, Lena Gallitano, Steve Halsted, Diane Hardy, Vernon Janke, Mark Johns, Will Kimler, Larry Marcus, Chris Moorman, Jim Mulholland, Bob O'Brien, Mike Pollard, Harriet Sato, Roger Shaw, Clyde Smith, Rick Van Horn, Mary Waler, Bob Winstead

Exclusives: King Rail, American Pipit, Henslow's Sparrow

Falls Lake – count date 26 April, 99 species, 1897 individuals, seven participants, 26.00 party-hours.

Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn@earthlink.net)

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Jonathan Steere, Will Cook, Brian Pendergraft, Harriet Sato, Bob Winstead, Clyde Smith

Kerr Lake – count date 28 April, 120 species, 2209 individuals, four participants, 23.00 party-hours. Compiler: Brian Bockhahn (cbockhahn@earthlink.net)

Participants:

Exclusives: Black-crowned Night-Heron

Participants: Brian Bockhahn, Will Cook, Mike Boatwright, Bryce Fleming, Lori Fleming

Coastal Plain

Onslow County – count date 8 May, 154 species, 7167 individuals, 20 participants, 71.75 party-hours. Compiler: Jim O'Donnell (odjljl@charter.net)

Participants: Rich and Susan Boyd, Jamie and Sue Cameron, John Fussell, Al Gamache, Buddy and Ann Garrett, Barbara Gould, Gilbert S. Grant, John S. Hammond, Gary Hauglet, Bob Holmes, Carmen Lombardo, Jim and Laura O'Donnell, Harry Sell, Mark Shields, Bruce Smithson, Lisa Stotesbury, Andy Webb

Exclusives: 33 species, see list in coastal plain section above.

Table 4. 2004 spring counts in North Carolina

Count name	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Catawba Co	Frsyth Co	Gms-boro	So Pines	Chap Hill	Jord Lake	Durhm	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour	pied mts	coast
Date	8May	9May	8May	8May	8May	1May	1May	1May	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May	Total			
Count type	NAMC	circle	NAMC	NAMC	NAMC	NAMC	circle	circle	circle	circle	circle	circle	circle	circle	circle	NAMC				
Canada Goose	26	74	71		6	24	214	356	147	328	131	142	276	33	44	51	1923	0.88	2.26	0.71
Wood Duck	4	39	13			4	5	40	16	44	43	35	19	2	26	21	311	0.28	0.32	0.29
American Black Duck									10						2	31	43	0	0	0.43
Mallard	9	37	59		13	13	82	152	46	92	45	21	102	14	9	16	710	0.58	0.77	0.22
Scooter sp.																	1	0	0	0.01
Bufflehead																1	1	0	0	0.01
Hooded Merganser								4		4						1	9	0	0.01	0.01
Red-breasted Merganser								1	3	1	9				1	8	22	0	0.02	0.11
Ruddy Duck																12	13	0	0	0.17
Duck sp.																	3	0	0	0
Ruffed Grouse		4		1													5	0.02	0	0
Wild Turkey	1	6							1	3	5	13		3	5	10	48	0.04	0.04	0.14
Northern Bobwhite	2	2	7			2			19	3	2	5	1			20	63	0.05	0.02	0.28
Red-throated Loon																1	1	0	0	0.01
Common Loon															7	7	15	0	0.01	0.10
Pied-billed Grebe			1									1		1	1	5	8	0	0	0.07
Northern Gannet																20	20	0	0	0.28
Brown Pelican																82	82	0	0	1.14
Double-crested Cormorant						6	1	122	17	100	306	405	18	19	60	126	1180	0	1.51	1.76

Count name	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Catawba Co	Frsyth Co	Grns-boro	So Pines	Chap Hill	Jord Lake	Durhm	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour mts	pled coast
Date	8May	9May	8May	8May	8May	8May	1May	1May	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May	Total		
American Bittern																	1	1	0
Least Bittern																	1	1	0
Great Blue Heron			2		1	16	1	29	27	150	102	96	48	17	27	12	528	0.01	0.71
Great Egret										1	3	1				55	60	0	0.01
Snowy Egret													1			16	17	0	0.22
Little Blue Heron																	8	0	0.11
Tricolored Heron																6	6	0	0.08
Cattle Egret																32	32	0	0.45
Green Heron		6	7				13	10	9	15	6	7	6		1	6	85	0.06	0.08
Black-crowned Night-Heron																	1	0	0
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron																			
Heron							8										8	0	0.01
White Ibis																13	13	0	0.18
Black Vulture			11	6	1	7	8	63	5	30	32	14	1	54	23	1	256	0.09	0.34
Turkey Vulture			17	12	8	47	55	65	39	152	119	61	31	38	40	102	868	0.59	0.89
Osprey					1	5	3	4		10	35	15	1	14	8	39	135	0	0.14
Bald Eagle									5	11	11	1	2	4			34	0	0.04
Northern Harrier			1								2	3					6	0	0.01
Sharp-shinned Hawk				1	1	2			4		1	1	1		1	1	15	0.02	0.01
Cooper's Hawk	1	1					7	6	2	2	3	3	1				26	0.01	0.03
accipiter sp.								2				1				3	0	0	0
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	1	2			6	3	9	8	19	15	17	25	4	3	9	123	0.02	0.15
Broad-winged Hawk	4	3		2		3	1			1	2				2		18	0.04	0.01
Red-tailed Hawk	9	4	4		2	9	10	11	9	11	20	20	8	8	10	10	145	0.09	0.16
Buteo sp.												1					1	0	0
American Kestrel			1				2	2	3	1	2	1	2				16	0.01	0.01
Clapper Rail		2										1				28	28	0	0
King Rail													1				1	0	0

Count name	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Cataw ba Co	Frssyth Co	Grns- boro	So Pines	Chap Hilli	Jord Lake	Durhm	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour mts	party-hour plied coast
Date	8May 9	8May 8	8May 8	8May 8	8May 8	8May 8	1May 1	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May		Total		
Sora																1	1	0	0.01
Common Moorhen																1	2	0	0.01
American Coot																2	31	0	0.03
Black-bellied Plover									29							66	66	0	0.92
Wilson's Plover																7	7	0	0.10
Semipalmated Plover							3									43	46	0	0.60
Piping Plover																2	2	0	0.03
Killdeer	1	5	31		3	5	24	27	24	35	29	8	6	8	8	45	259	0.20	0.22
American Oystercatcher																61	61	0	0.85
Black-necked Stilt																1	1	0	0.01
Greater Yellowlegs			2					1		1						10	14	0.01	0.14
Lesser Yellowlegs			3				5	4					2		2	16	16	0.01	0.02
Solitary Sandpiper		3	10		1		51	8	9	13	4		10			15	124	0.07	0.13
Willet																87	87	0	1.21
Spotted Sandpiper	2	10	2		2	3	28	11	4	16	11	7	16	1	3	19	135	0.08	0.14
Whimbrel																9	9	0	0.13
Ruddy Turnstone																8	8	0	0.11
Red Knot																16	16	0	0.22
Sanderling																257	259	0	3.58
Semipalmated Sandpiper			1													16	17	0	0.22
Western Sandpiper			2													1	3	0.01	0.01
Least Sandpiper			8				19	29		18						25	99	0.04	0.10
Dunlin																15	15	0	0.21
peep sp.																40	40	0	0.56
Short-billed Dowitcher																54	54	0	0.75
Dowitcher sp.																10	10	0	0.14
Wilson's Snipe			1													1	1	0	0
American Woodcock							2			1		1				4	4	0	0.01

Count name	Grand Total																		Total birds per party-hour					
	Date	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Catawba Co	Frsyth Co	Grns-boro	So Pines	Chap Hill	Jord Lake	Durhm	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Total	mts	party-hour	Grand Total	mts	party-hour	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8May	1											1					2	0	0	2	0	0	
Downy Woodpecker	10	18		12	6		5	23	17	30	52	31	21	24	9	6	9	273	0.23	0.27	0.13	273	0.23	0.27
Hairy Woodpecker	4	6	1	2		1	1	5	4		12	5	7	3	5	1	1	64	0.07	0.06	0.01	64	0.07	0.06
Red-cockaded Woodpecker										24							3	27	0	0	0.04	27	0	0.04
Northern Flicker	8	19	7				4	25	12	28	24	26	14	5	6	7	10	195	0.17	0.18	0.14	195	0.17	0.18
Pileated Woodpecker	16	27	11	3		2	7	2	3	24	21	18	10	4	2	8	24	182	0.29	0.11	0.33	182	0.29	0.11
Eastern Wood-Pewee	5	22	5			4	7	3	3	23	49	19	3	6		1	45	195	0.18	0.13	0.63	195	0.18	0.13
Acadian Flycatcher	4	12	15			7	3		6	15	78	12	9	19	1	6	48	235	0.19	0.20	0.67	235	0.19	0.20
Willow Flycatcher	7		12													1		20	0.09	0	0	20	0.09	0
Least Flycatcher						4							1					4	0.02	0	0	4	0.02	0
Empidonax, sp.																		1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Eastern Phoebe	49	33	34		3	18	3	14	21	15	25	31	23	14	4	6		293	0.68	0.21	0	293	0.68	0.21
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	10	11				8	9	29	152	67	57	26	54	17	14	130	588	0.12	0.41	1.81	588	0.12	0.41
Eastern Kingbird	7	16	4			11	19	20	22	107	41	82	16	38	11	30	58	482	0.18	0.41	0.81	482	0.18	0.41
Loggerhead Shrike							1			7				2				10	0	0	0	10	0	0
White-eyed Vireo	13	2	14				2	9	4	65	26	32	57	21	5	21	32	303	0.14	0.26	0.45	303	0.14	0.26
Yellow-throated Vireo		7				4	1		1	15	24	18	15	4	3	14	17	123	0.05	0.12	0.24	123	0.05	0.12
Blue-headed Vireo	36	86	12		1	6	3	2	2	7	9	1	4	3	6	10		188	0.70	0.06	0	188	0.70	0.06
Warbling Vireo		3	1															4	0.02	0	0	4	0.02	0
Philadelphia Vireo								2										2	0	0	0	2	0	0
Red-eyed Vireo	42	162	60		9	27	23	61	73	73	262	204	176	57	68	105	40	1442	1.48	1.50	0.56	1442	1.48	1.50
Blue Jay	53	105	64		9	9	23	124	107	169	141	127	140	47	43	24	33	1218	1.19	1.13	0.46	1218	1.19	1.13
American Crow	229	243	109		7	38	46	86	190	195	222	258	114	50	65	62	82	1996	3.10	1.60	1.14	1996	3.10	1.60
Fish Crow								10	18	103	14	28	15	46	15	8	50	307	0	0.22	0.70	307	0	0.22
Common Raven	1	1				5		6										13	0.03	0.01	0	13	0.03	0.01
Horned Lark										9							1	10	0	0	0.01	10	0	0.01
Purple Martin	51	4	19				7	7	56	86	42	9	13	47		40	182	563	0.37	0.32	2.54	563	0.37	0.32
Tree Swallow	106	35	11			2	1		12		8	34	10	1	10	14	5	249	0.76	0.11	0.07	249	0.76	0.11

Count name	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Catawba Co	Frsyth Co	Grns-boro	So Pines	Chap Hill	Jord Lake	Durhm	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour	mts	plied coast
Date	8May	9May	8May	8May	8May	8May	1May	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May					
American Pipit	48	298	54			66	160	141	46	190	73	167	220	3		6	10	0	0.01	0
Cedar Waxwing																	1469	1.98	1.49	0.08
Blue-winged Warbler	1								1								2	0	0	0
**Lawrence's Warbler																	1	0	0	0
Northern Parula	22	11	14		3	13	25	25	24	79	78	74	27	18	6	48	467	0.25	0.50	0.67
Yellow Warbler	3	34	8		10	1	6	11	1	11	11	11	1		4		101	0.27	0.07	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	50	31	19			1		5		1	1	1		1			110	0.49	0.01	0
Magnolia Warbler		2								2			1				5	0.01	0	0
Cape May Warbler		11	4										1				17	0.07	0	0
Black-throated Blue Warbler	16	70	1	4	3	9	34	27	5	41	38	8	17	5	6		284	0.47	0.27	0
Yellow-rumped Warbler	3	19	35	2	1	16	136	115	39	17	137	94	9	50	26		699	0.30	0.88	0
Black-throated Green																				
Warbler	13	77	26			6	1	1			1		1		1		127	0.57	0.02	0
Blackburnian Warbler	4	28	1			2											35	0.16	0	0
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	4	4		3		1		45	18	64	30	7	14	17	38	252	0.09	0.22	0.53
Pine Warbler		1	2			13	16	20	73	177	163	58	30	46	34	39	672	0.01	0.81	0.54
Prairie Warbler				1		3		6	41	34	90	39	4	5	18	63	304	0	0.29	0.88
Palm Warbler	1		11				3			1					1		21	0.06	0.01	0
Bay-breasted Warbler		1															1	0	0	0
Blackpoll Warbler	2	17	7			2				7	2	2	3	1	1	2	45	0.13	0.02	0.03
Cerulean Warbler	2	10				1											13	0.06	0	0
Black-and-white Warbler	15	69	17	4	4	5	9	11	49	18	60	14	8	3	5	8	299	0.54	0.19	0.11
American Redstart	5	29	19		2	2	10	16	12	54	36	16	13	2			217	0.27	0.22	0.01
Prothonotary Warbler		1				2			11	35	23	16	3		5	49	145	0	0.12	0.68
Worm-eating Warbler	1	17	7			3	1		2	3	1		1	1		9	46	0.12	0.01	0.13
Swainson's Warbler		3						1								6	11	0.01	0	0.08
Ovenbird	46	128	29	10	5	5	5	13	56	96	144	58	8	31	42	16	692	1.08	0.59	0.22
Northern Waterthrush	2	4	8				3	4	2	6	3	7	3	1			43	0.07	0.04	0

Count name	Trans Co	Bunc Co	Hend Co	Stone Mt	Mt Jeff	Catawba Co	Frsyth Co	Grns-boro	So Pines	Chap Hill	Jord Lake	Durham	Wake Co	Falls Lake	Kerr Lake	Onslw Co	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour	Grand Total	Total birds per party-hour
Date	8May	9May	8May	8May	8May	8May	1May	1May	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May	Total	mts	mts	mts
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	1			2	1		1	7	19	12	4	10	2	4	2	68	0.03	0.08	0.03
Kentucky Warbler	1	12					3		3	3	1	4			2	6	35	0.06	0.02	0.08
Common Yellowthroat	26	7	52		9	10	17	36	68	163	94	140	40	15	19	73	769	0.47	0.78	1.02
Hooded Warbler	42	71	25	6	5	7		1	16	55	26	18	6	12	5	16	311	0.75	0.19	0.22
Wilson's Warbler	1							1									2	0	0	0
Canada Warbler	8	45	2	1							1						57	0.28	0	0
Yellow-breasted Chat	4	2	8				4	13	15	47	47	39	7	7	15	36	246	0.07	0.26	0.50
Summer Tanager							5	4	44	107	101	33	21	22	30	37	404	0	0.47	0.52
Scarlet Tanager	21	35	13	6	9	7	15	12	1	46	40	18	6	5	13		247	0.42	0.24	0
Eastern Towhee	127	135	118	8	17	14	108	86	200	255	153	149	75	26	17	67	1555	2.00	1.29	0.93
Bachman's Sparrow									7							7	14	0	0	0.10
Chipping Sparrow	21	37	30	7	13	14	17	38	150	167	173	68	22	25	40	44	866	0.53	0.82	0.61
Field Sparrow	9	14	44		10	10	12	28	17	12	29	28	3	5	21		242	0.38	0.22	0
Savannah Sparrow		1	22			4	6	3	2	4	15	10	1		3	2	73	0.11	0.07	0.03
Grasshopper Sparrow		2	4			14		10	4	6		17			2		59	0.03	0.07	0
Henslow's Sparrow													1				1	0	0	0
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow																	1	0	0	0
Seaside Sparrow																1	1	0	0	0.01
Song Sparrow	180	270	191			3	60	96	5	51	9	62	3	1	5	5	962	3.30	0.42	0
Lincoln's Sparrow								1				1					3	0.01	0	0
Swamp Sparrow	1		1						2	2	2	18	1	2	1		29	0.01	0.04	0
White-throated Sparrow	1	2	6				61	58	65	8	30	180	1	54	17	3	492	0.07	0.6	0.04
White-crowned Sparrow	1		10				10	5				1			1		28	0.05	0.02	0
Dark-eyed Junco	22	54		5	7				2								90	0.44	0	0
Northern Cardinal	93	188	123		10	48	318	288	338	628	340	334	197	100	94	136	3235	2.05	3.43	1.90
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	10	31	1	5	1	6	16	1	4	1	3	6	2		2		89	0.24	0.05	0
Blue Grosbeak			4			8	8	15	48	49	59	33	29	3	9	56	321	0.02	0.31	0.78

Count name	Date	Grand																Total birds per party-hour			
		8May	9May	8May	8May	1May	25Apr	9May	2May	25Apr	8May	26Apr	28Apr	8May	Total	mts	pled coast				
Indigo Bunting		48	158	125	8	20	30	41	33	28	224	147	60	56	23	19	88	1108	1.78	0.92	1.23
Painted Bunting																	23	23	0	0	0.32
Bobolink		22	6	72			20	22	29		75	49		14	1			310	0.49	0.31	0
Red-winged Blackbird		127	81	58		31	8	43	70	62	82	199	85	54	5	17	281	1203	1.47	0.82	3.92
Eastern Meadowlark		17	22	26		2	25	11	13	62	12	42	21	3	10	11	41	318	0.33	0.22	0.57
Rusty Blackbird							1									2		3	0	0	0
Common Grackle		70	124	75		9	27	362	663	231	330	331	142	197	52	52	207	2872	1.38	3.15	2.89
Boat-tailed Grackle																	144	144	0	0	2.01
Brown-headed Cowbird		10	19	16	1	1	12	33	101	53	92	108	104	22	33	11	57	673	0.23	0.75	0.79
Orchard Oriole		1	17	2	2	3	3	8	7	27	15	33	9	10		9	60	206	0.12	0.14	0.84
Baltimore Oriole		1	17	3		9	1	7	6				1		1	2		48	0.15	0.03	0
blackbird sp.												2					2	2	0	0	0
Purple Finch							1					5	1		2			9	0	0.01	0
House Finch		40	93	43	2	6	16	56	57	67	177	27	54	49	21	2	34	744	0.91	0.67	0.47
Pine Siskin			4															4	0.02	0	0
American Goldfinch		63	172	98	38	25	39	139	216	171	414	194	207	107	36	69	8	1996	1.96	2.08	0.11
House Sparrow		16	30	40		4	7	23	10	33	56	23	68	21	11	7	73	422	0.45	0.33	1.02
total species		111	119	115	44	73	110	112	114	119	121	122	124	118	99	120	154	221			
total birds		2956	5317	3142	252	603	1573	5006	6563	5984	9529	7698	5989	3805	1897	2209	7167	69690			
# participants		27	20	15	3	3	6	45	22	29	37	47	23	27	7	4	20	335			
total party hours		75	65	41.8	8.25	12	48.5	106	85.5		124	141	76	54.5	26	23	71.8	959			
total party miles		249	367	213	18			125	307		286	315	209	133	79.5		407	2706			
hours on foot		36	17.8	15.7	3.5			82.5	59.5		89	86.5	59.8	46			25.3	521			
hours by car		30	47.3	26.2	4.75			13.5	26		32	40	15.3	4.5			36	275			
hours by bicycle											3	2						5			
hours by canoe/kayak												12.8					10.5	23.3			
miles on foot		14	18	13.5	5		15	55	42.3		65.5	70	49	37.5			15	400			
miles by car		235	349	200	13		262	66	265		212	222	160	84			382	2450			

Count name	Date	miles by bicycle	miles by canoe/kayak	hours owling	miles owling	feeder hours	total birds per party-hour
Trans Co	8May 9May			3	0	39.4	60.7
Bunc Co	8May 9May					81.8	64.7
Hend Co	8May 8May					75.2	99.9
Stone Mt	8May 8May					30.6	
Mt Jeff	8May 8May					50.3	
Catawba Co	8May 1May		0	4.5	0	32.4	
Frsyth Co	1May 1May		4.5	2.5	5	47.2	
Grns-boro	1May 25Apr					76.8	
So Pines	25Apr 9May						
Chap Hill	8May 2May		2	1.75	17.5	76.9	
Jord Lake	2May 25Apr		7.5	10.5	78.8	54.5	
Durhm	25Apr 8May			2		69.9	
Wake Co	26Apr 8May					73	
Falls Lake	28Apr 28Apr					96	
Kerr Lake	28Apr 8May					99.9	
Onslw Co	10 4.75 29 28.5 66.5						
Grand Total	23						

Spring 2004 North American Migration Count in South Carolina

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The Spring 2004 North American Migration Count was held on 8 May 2004, and 85 parties of 148 individuals in 17 counties across the Palmetto State observed 38,213 individual birds of 211 species. Temperatures ranged from 60 to 90 degrees, cloud cover ranged from none to 30 percent, winds ranged from 0 to 10 miles per hour, and no rain fell. In short, the birders had a beautiful spring day.

Notable among the birds were the Wood Warblers, many of which were undoubtedly migrants. Twenty-three of the 35 regularly occurring warblers were found, with high numbers of species that regularly breed here: Northern Parula (312), Pine (224), Prothonotary (110), Common Yellowthroat (187), and Yellow-breasted Chat (156). None of the regularly occurring spring migrating warblers went uncounted.

Birds found in only one county included Mute Swan, Gadwall, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, Merlin, Sora, Purple Gallinule, American Oystercatcher, American Avocet, Red Knot, White-rumped Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher, Sandwich Tern, Common Raven, Marsh Wren, Blackburnian Warbler, and Baltimore Oriole.

Species reported in every county included Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Crested Flycatcher, American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Pine Warbler, Eastern Towhee, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, and Common Grackle.

The counties with the three highest species counts were Charleston (129), Georgetown (115), and Jasper (114).

County Summaries

Aiken County: 112 species, 2860 individuals.

Coordinator: Anne Waters
1621 Apple Valley Drive
Augusta, GA 30906
706-793-2788

Participants: Lee Dane, Adrienne DeBiase, Carol Eldridge, Larry Eldridge, Judy Gregory, Gene Howard, Christine Huzella, Paul Koehler, Lois Stacey, Anne Waters, Calvin Zippier.

Aiken's exclusive was Hooded Merganser, and Aiken was one of only two counties to report American Pipit.

Beaufort County: 75 species, 1070 individuals.

Coordinator: Patricia Metz
7 Beneta Court
Savannah, GA 31406
912-652-4415

Participants: Clem Dietz, Mary Bess Mulhollan, Paige Mulhollan, Tim White

Beaufort's half-day count turned up an impressive 75 species, including several warbler species, among which were American Redstart and Swainson's Warbler.

Calhoun County: 90 species, 978 individuals.

Coordinator: Tim Kalbach
105 Woodland Drive
Lexington, SC 29072
803-767-0795

Participants: Tim Kalbach

Tim Kalbach's one-man show netted 90 species, including 14 species of warblers. The observer also noted a Grasshopper Sparrow in Calhoun County one day after the official count.

Charleston County: 129 species, 5110 individuals.

Coordinator: Perry E. Nugent
2260 N. Dallerton Circle
Charleston, SC 29414

Participants: Barbara Born, Ron Born, Edward Conradi, Sandra Conradi, Ann Kent, Joan Hylander, Perry Nugent, Allen Russell, Joe Stevenot, Martha Stevenot, Betty Zimmerman

Charleston had five exclusives – Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, American Oystercatcher, Red Knot, and Marsh Wren. Charleston also topped the chart in number of species, with impressive numbers of Great Egret (371), Red Knot (310), Laughing Gull (305), Great Crested Flycatcher (189), Tree Swallow (202), Northern Parula (101) and others.

Cherokee County: 77 species; 1212 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29304
864-585-1228

Participants: Claude Cobb, Jr., Claude Cobb, Sr., Ken Garrett, Carolyn Haynes, J. B. Hines, Karla Lavender, Maxi Nix, Deedee Parker, Tina Pearsall, Adam Simmons, David Simmons, Roslyn Simmons

One of only two counties to report lingering Purple Finches, Cherokee had one. And the Upstate county was one of only three counties to locate Eastern Screech-Owl and Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Chester County: 66 species; 599 individuals.

Coordinator: Gary Sowell
140 Sweetwater Drive
Hopkins, SC 29061
803-776-2650

Participants: Mary Brown, Marion Clark, Nancy Lyman, Faye Metzl, Irvin Pitts, Gary Sowell, Alice Vaughn

Chester was the only non-coastal county to report Caspian Tern, and the county had good representation of Wood Warblers, including Northern Parula, Yellow, Yellow-throated, Pine, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Prothonotary, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Clarendon County: 55 species; 452 individuals.

Coordinator: Mike Turner
Columbia, SC

Participant: Mike Turner

In another one-man show, Mike Turner, in a mere four afternoon hours, located 55 species, all in the Pine Island Unit of Santee National Wildlife Refuge. He found the day's only Merlin and saw eight Boat-tailed Grackles, a rare sighting inland.

Georgetown County: 115 species; 1856 individuals.

Coordinator: Jack Peachey
103 Walnut Circle
Conway, SC 29526
843-347-5810

Participants: Dave Gustafson, Jack Peachey, Gary Phillips, Evie Schwarz, Erik Smith, Alice Vivian, Hal Vivian

Georgetown took second spot for total number of species. Among its 115 species, Georgetown had three exclusives: Mute Swan (1), White-rumped Sandpiper (2), and Sandwich Tern (15). The county had high numbers of Semipalmated Plover (290), Dunlin (160), and Tree Swallow (206).

Greenville County: 113 species; 3086 individuals.

Coordinator: Peter L. Worthington
716 N. Almond Drive
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864-967-4183

Participants: Jeff Catlin, Preston Davies, Harry Davis, Len Kopka, Jane Kramer, Barbara Maxwell, Eric McFalls, Hilda Reese, Linda Sharp, Mac Sharpe, Donna Slyce, Judy Webb, Peter Worthington

Greenville was the only county to have Common Raven. Additionally, the county scored well with Wood Warblers, including Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-rumped, Black-throated Green, Yellow-throated, Pine, Prairie, Blackpoll, Black-and-white, American Redstart, Worm-eating, Swainson's, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded, and Yellow-breasted Chat.

Hampton County: 74 species; 659 individuals.

Coordinator: Carroll Richard
PO Box 893
Hampton, SC 29924
803-943-4661

Participants:

Hampton was one of only two counties to score Glossy Ibis, had the highest number of Purple Martins (97), and was one of only three counties to report Bachman's Sparrow (3).

Jasper County: 114 species; 11,737 individuals

Coordinator: Patricia Metz
7 Beneta Court
Savannah, GA 31406
912-652-4415

Participants: Patty Adamcak, Steve Calver, Karen Grainey, Steve Livingston, Bill Lotz, Alex McClelland, Carol McClelland, John Metz, Patricia Metz, Tim Miller, Joyce Murlless, Brendan Shea, Andy Ward, Mark Welford

Access to the Savannah River Spoil Site paid off for Jasper County, where 10 exclusives were found: Gadwall (1), Blue-winged Teal (2), Northern Shoveler (7), Ruddy Duck (154), Sora (2), Purple Gallinule (4), American Avocet (74), Pectoral Sandpiper (1), Stilt Sandpiper (52), and Long-billed Dowitcher (5). Jasper also had large numbers of several species, including Snowy Egret (409), White Ibis (165), Common Moorhen (269), Semipalmated Plover (379), Black-necked Stilt (158), Semipalmated Sandpiper (7100), Dunlin (381), Cedar Waxwing (255), Bobolink (203), and Red-winged Blackbird (427).

Lancaster County: 59 species; 277 individuals.

Coordinator: Gary Sowell
140 Sweetwater Drive
Hopkins, SC 29061
803-776-2650

Participants: Scott Fletcher, Sarah Fletcher, Gary Sowell, Nancy Lyman

Lancaster observers noted two Herring Gulls, making Lancaster one of only two counties to report the species. The Lancaster count was a morning outing, with 3 hours spent in a canoe on the Lancaster side of the Catawba River.

Lexington County: 78 species; 1066 individuals.

Coordinator: Molly Bonnell
202 Cannon Trail
Lexington, SC 29073
803-359-6280

Participants: Molly Bonnell, Andrea Ceselski, Barbara Darden

The count's only all-female team located one of only three Cooper's Hawks, one of only three American Kestrels, and one of only three Cape May Warblers.

Pickens County: 101 species; 828 individuals

Coordinators: Bob Ellis
2402 Glenwood Road
Columbia, SC 29204
803-790-1549

Participants: Bob Ellis, Steve Patterson

Pickens County held the day's only Baltimore Oriole and 18 species of Wood Warbler: Northern Parula (7), Yellow (1), Black-throated Blue (4), Yellow-rumped (1), Black-throated Green (7), Pine (4), Prairie (2), Bay-breasted (3), Blackpoll (1), Black-and-white (1), American Redstart (2), Worm-eating (2), Swainson's (5), Ovenbird (11), Louisiana Waterthrush (3), Common Yellow-throat (4), Hooded (6), and Yellow-breasted Chat (4).

Richland County: 104 species; 1142 individuals.

Coordinator: Robin Carter
4165 East Buchanan Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
803-782-8820

Participants: Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman

The Richland team has the distinction of starting earliest, at 3:30 AM, which paid off in terms of nocturnal species: Great Horned Owl (1), Barred Owl (3), Chuck-will's-widow (1), and Whip-poor-will (6). Richland also tallied the only Blackburnian Warbler of the day.

Spartanburg County: 106 species; 3475 individuals.

Coordinator: Lyle D. Campbell
126 Greengate Lane
Spartanburg, SC 29307
864-585-1228

Participants: Gloria Anderson, Laura Bannon, Susan Bennett, Tim Brown, Herschel Browne, David Byrd, Dawn Byrd, Lewanna Caldwell, Lyle Campbell, Sarah Campbell, Dan Codispoti, Elaine Collins, Roy Fowler, Pat Fowler, Dennis Funk, Onoosh Gahagan, Ron Gahagan, Linda Ginn, Alan Gray, Becky Gray, John Green, Emma Harrington, Alice Henderson, Betty Howard, Jessie Ivy, Connie Jenne, Ron Jenne, Jack Jennings, Joel Jones, Herb Kay, Lisa Lever, Janet Ludwick, Lillian Marotte, Mickey Marotte, Jim Miller, Margaret Miller, Moss Miller, Sam Miller, Virl Momier, Bill Moody, Mary Ann Myers, Nancy Owen, Bob Powell, Sandra Powell, Eva Pratt, Sam Pratt, Doug Rayner, Kyle Rollins, Bob Scott, Mack Shealy, Laurel Sullivan, Tina Taylor, Gerald Thurmond, M. B. Ulmer

Spartanburg's statistics include high counts for Canada Goose (146), Mallard (90), Red-tailed Hawk (16), Spotted Sandpiper (7), Eastern Phoebe (39), American Crow (140), Barn Swallow (131), Carolina Chickadee (82), Tufted Titmouse (95), Eastern Bluebird (91), American Robin (132),

Northern Mockingbird (102), and Northern Cardinal (205). Spartanburg also reported 24 lingering Purple Finches.

Sumter County: 80 species; 1806 individuals.

Coordinator: Lloyd Moon
6150 Brookland Drive
Sumter, SC 29154
803-494-3234

Participants: Evelyn Dabbs, Kathleen Mallard, Lloyd Moon, Ward Moon

Sumter was the only county to have Lesser Scaup for the day. And the county distinguished itself with high numbers of Cattle Egret (112), Eurasian Collared-Dove (60), Mourning Dove (205), Eastern Kingbird (50), and Common Grackle (262).

Table 1. North American Migration Count in South Carolina 8 May 2004

	Aiken	Beaufort	Calhoun	Charleston	Cherokee	Chester	Clarendon	Georgetown	Greenville	Hampton	Jasper	Lancaster	Lexington	Pickens	Richland	Spartanburg	Sumter	Total Individuals	# Counties Reporting
Canada Goose	58		9	3	9	7		2	83			1	20	23	30	146	105	496	13
Mute Swan								1					16	2	1	40	25	226	1
Wood Duck	43	2	2	15	2		6		3	2	67								14
Gadwall											1					2		1	1
American Black Duck	2																	4	2
Mallard	22			1		4		3	32	2	17		4	1	8	90	12	196	12
Mottled Duck				2				2			40							44	3
Blue-winged Teal											2							2	1
Northern Shoveler											7						1	7	1
Lesser Scaup																	1	1	1
Hooded Merganser	1																	1	1
Red-breasted Merganser								1								1		2	2
Ruddy Duck											154							154	1
Wild Turkey	9		1	3	5			4	6			1				22	5	56	9
Northern Bobwhite	10		3		10		1		10	6	2		1	1	2	10	3	59	12
Pied-billed Grebe				6				1	1	1								9	4
Horned Grebe				4														4	1
Northern Gannet				2														2	1
Brown Pelican				66							8							74	2
Double-crested Cormorant	3	1	3	8	1	4	1	3		1	47	27				14	14	113	12
Anhinga	3	13	3	26			10	1		5	19					24	24	104	9
Least Bittern				1			2				3							8	4
Great Blue Heron	10	9	2	12	2		6	3	6	5	7		4	6	4	17	11	104	15

[illegible]

	# Counties Reporting	Total Individuals	Sumter	Spartanburg	Richland	Pickens	Lexington	Lancaster	Jasper	Hampton	Greenville	Georgetown	Clarendon	Chester	Cherokee	Charleston	Calhoun	Beaufort	Aiken
Sora	1	2							2										
Purple Gallinule	1	4							4										
Common Moorhen	7	331							269	2		2	5			28	2	23	
American Coot	2	49							9							40			
Black-bellied Plover	3	48							10			34				4			
Wilson's Plover	2	4							1							3			
Semipalmated Plover	6	814							379	1		290				23		120	1
Killdeer	15	152	4	10	12	10	2	1	15		11	6		4	26	33	5	1	12
American Oystercatcher	1	2														2			
Black-necked Stilt	2	162							158			4							
American Avocet	1	74							74										
Greater Yellowlegs	3	42							12	9		21							
Lesser Yellowlegs	6	79		1		1			60			7				2		4	8
Solitary Sandpiper	6	27			4				12		1			3		12			3
Willet	3	31				2			9			10							5
Spotted Sandpiper	9	32		7	3			3	2		4	3			3				
Whimbrel	2	63										28				35			
Ruddy Turnstone	1	10										8				2			
Red Knot	2	310														310			
Sanderling	1											53						20	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	7158										55				3		1	1
Western Sandpiper	3																		
Least Sandpiper	2	269				1						26				5		6	
White-rumped Sandpiper	6	2										2							
Peep sp.	1	1							6										
Pectoral Sandpiper	1	6																	
Dunlin	3	557							381									16	
Stilt Sandpiper	1	52							52			160							

	# Counties Reporting	Total Individuals	Sumter	Spartan-burg	Richland	Pickens	Lexington	Lancaster	Jasper	Hampton	Greenville	Georgetown	Clarendon	Chester	Cherokee	Charleston	Calhoun	Beaufort	Aiken	
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	19							6			13							17	Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher	1	5							5			25							4	Long-billed Dowitcher
Dowitcher sp.	2	109							84			31	5						103	Dowitcher sp.
Laughing Gull	5	350							8			16						1	18	Laughing Gull
Ring-billed Gull	6	54	2				10		6	1		4							1	Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull	2	6						2				1							1	Herring Gull
Gull-billed Tern	3	74							72			21		1					1	Gull-billed Tern
Caspian Tern	4	42							19			2							1	Caspian Tern
Royal Tern	2	17										15							1	Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern	1	15										50							1	Sandwich Tern
Forster's Tern	4	62							1			8							1	Forster's Tern
Least Tern	4	70	2						42			24							1	Least Tern
Black Skimmer	3	46							4			1							1	Black Skimmer
Rock Pigeon	14	246	60	13		19	6		29	6	39	39		20	3	4	1		1	Rock Pigeon
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5	16			1				5	5		3				3			4	Eurasian Collared-Dove
Mourning Dove	17	1135	205	190	33	35	77	2	38	39	165	2	19	4	81	77	16	12	103	Mourning Dove
Common Ground-Dove	2	5							3			16				23	3		18	Common Ground-Dove
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	17	105	5	5	5	7	2	2	3	1	6	2	2	1	1	4		5	1	Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl	2	5																	1	Barn Owl
Eastern Screech-Owl	6	15	1				3				2				2	4			1	Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl	5	11			1	2										3			3	Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl	7	39			3					1	3				1	12			10	Barred Owl
Common Nighthawk	6	25			2	1					1				3	5			25	Common Nighthawk
Chuck-will's-widow	11	56	1			3	3			2	4	2			1	1			4	Chuck-will's-widow
Whip-poor-will	6	22			6	1					2				4	10			4	Whip-poor-will
Chimney Swift	15	537	72	69	31	21	21	4	57	15	142	12		17	30	10	12	1	24	Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	16	128	7	31	3	4	6		2	5	17	19	2	2	1	11	3		14	Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher	9	38	1	11		3		4			3				1	9	2		4	Belted Kingfisher

	# Counties Reporting	Total Individuals	Sumter	Spartanburg	Richland	Pickens	Lexington	Lancaster	Jasper	Hampton	Greenville	Georgetown	Clarendon	Chester	Cherokee	Charleston	Calhoun	Beaufort	Aiken
Bank Swallow	2	31			30	4		10			1			235					
Cliff Swallow	4	449		200		78	14			19	75	41	5	1	47	111	12		4
Barn Swallow	14	596	46	131		8	25	12	12	2	69	8	3	12	6	44	3	26	53
Carolina Chickadee	16	376	7	82	16	14	36	16	9	5	74	18	4	9	9	80	22	28	71
Tufted Titmouse	17	534	11	95	33	4	1				10	2			2	25	2	2	
White-breasted Nuthatch	8	33	4	7		5					11	2		1	2	94	2	16	11
Brown-headed Nuthatch	12	105	12	17	2	4	11	7	25	6	72	16	9	8	11	2	33	34	95
Carolina Wren	17	589		95	23		45				7					61			
House Wren	3	31		22															
Marsh Wren	1	61																	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	3		1	1						1								47
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	17	390	7	38	15	11	20	14	17	7	41	26	14	14	8	79	22	10	42
Eastern Bluebird	16	396	5	91	1	21	24		1	21	82	11	1	5	32	33	6	20	
Veery	3	7			1	3					3								
Swainson's Thrush	2	15			8						7								
Hermit Thrush	2	3				1					2								
Wood Thrush	10	63		5	6		6	4			25				2	2	5		4
American Robin	12	490		132	61	24	16				148			1	89	2	1		11
Gray Catbird	14	106	4	20	4	3	8	1	16	7	13	2			4	2	1	3	15
Northern Mockingbird	16	719	35	102	72	32	85	1	31	37	79	28		16	78	27	13	1	82
Brown Thrasher	14	222	9	56	7	5	20		17	4	39	14	1		10	18	6		16
European Starling	14	546		91	7	51	15		1	6	75	18		11	84	19	6		43
American Pipit	2	31	12																19
Cedar Waxwing	13	633	9	35	12	23	15		255		132	5		22	47		3	12	63
Northern Parula	16	312	1	22	15	5	7	12	1	1	10	7	1	10	2	101	19	13	86
Yellow Warbler	6	7				1		1	2					1	1				1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	2	4		3							1								
Cape May Warbler	3	3			1		1				1								

	Aiken	Beaufort	Calhoun	Charleston	Cherokee	Chester	Clarendon	Georgetown	Greenville	Hampton	Jasper	Lancaster	Lexington	Pickens	Richland	Spartanburg	Sumter	Total Individuals	# Counties Reporting
Black-throated Blue Warbler									17		1			4	8	1		31	5
Yellow-rumped Warbler					3				11				1	1	5	3		24	6
Black-throated Green Warbler									32					7				39	2
Blackburnian Warbler															1		1	1	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	7	5	3	33		8	1	8	1		1		16	4	5	9	1	82	12
Pine Warbler	37	22	15	47	4	5	5	7	22	1	7	6		2	10	15	1	224	17
Prairie Warbler	5		5	19				4	3			4		3	4			46	8
Bay-breasted Warbler								1										4	2
Blackpoll Warbler						2			1		2		1	1	1			8	6
Black-and-white Warbler	1					3			8		2	1	2	1	4	3		25	9
American Redstart	9	1	5			3		2	20		2	3	2	2	6	4		57	11
Prothonotary Warbler	29		3	22		9	3	10		1		14	2	2	8	2	7	110	12
Worm-eating Warbler					1			1	21					2				25	4
Swainson's Warbler	3	1	4					1	3					5	2	1		20	8
Ovenbird	1		1			1			8				6	11	6	1		35	8
Northern Waterthrush	2		1															13	4
Louisiana Waterthrush	6		4						3		5			3	1	4	1	29	9
Kentucky Warbler	12		3	5		2									3	3	1	27	6
Common Yellowthroat	16	2	5	70	2	1	10	4	12	1	33		3	4	12	13		187	14
Hooded Warbler	2		8	16	1			5	42			2	2	6	1	1		86	11
Yellow-breasted Chat	29		21	40	6	1	6	5	5	2	18	1	17	4	5	13	5	156	14
Summer Tanager	53	13	12	160		5	2	12	2	2	4	7	17	1	12	18		325	16
Scarlet Tanager				1		1	4		33	8	26	1	35	7	1	6	2	50	7
Eastern Towhee	70	18	18	80	22	4		8	64	3		4		10	13	45		431	17
Bachman's Sparrow	11			4									13	13	3	19	3	18	3
Chipping Sparrow	5		19	1	12			4	16									108	11
Field Sparrow			6						13			3		1	1	23		52	7
Savannah Sparrow	5		1	3					13		12							16	3

	# Counties Reporting	Total Individuals	Sumter	Spartanburg	Richland	Pickens	Lexington	Lancaster	Jasper	Hampton	Greenville	Georgetown	Clarendon	Chester	Cherokee	Charleston	Calhoun	Beaufort	Aiken
Grasshopper Sparrow	3	14		5							6				3				
Song Sparrow	4	36		18		5		1			12					2			
Swamp Sparrow	3	4				1			1		7					91			3
White-throated Sparrow	4	120		19															
Dark-eyed Junco	2	8				1					7								
Northern Cardinal	17	1269	58	205	54	13	88	9	48	28	147	43	9	12	40	138	22	80	275
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	16		4	1			2		3	9	4	6		8	8	22	1	32
Blue Grosbeak	14	118	11		5	6	7		3		2	4	1	8	9	70	51	2	95
Indigo Bunting	17	448	6	47	21	16	14	3	17		81	6	1			27	24	29	2
Painted Bunting	10	129	1		4				30	5			6				150		6
Bobolink	7	553	105	8	80	1			203						42	475	10	38	70
Red-winged Blackbird	15	1359	36	44	12	8	19		427	18	40	20	100		88		5		13
Eastern Meadowlark	8	172	8	14	1	10				31	33	7	25	4	94	201	16	3	91
Common Grackle	17	1041	262	79	40	15	31	2	6		134	49	8	4		75		25	
Boat-tailed Grackle	6	296							135	4		13	6	3	3	19	10	13	23
Brown-headed Cowbird	16	187	12	23	5	11	14	2	11		11	4	15	1		61	30		8
Orchard Oriole	15	176	14	5	4	5	1	1	12	4	11								
Baltimore Oriole	1	1				1									1				
Purple Finch	2	25		24								11		3	13	25	4	16	
House Finch	13	249	9	79	21	2	25			1	40								
American Goldfinch	10	207		82	5	13	2	5			51			3	21	6	1	24	
House Sparrow	12	117	2	27	26	6	3			13	11	4			10		1	8	
Species			80	106	104	102	78	59	114	74	113	115	55	66	77	129	90	75	112
Individuals		38214	1806	3475	1142	829	1066	277	11737	659	3086	1856	452	599	1212	5110	978	1070	2860
Observers		148	4	55	2	2	3	4	14	2	11	7	1	7	12	11	1	4	8
Parties		85	2	27	1	1	3	2	3	2	9	5	1	1	9	6	1	1	11

		# Counties Reporting												Total Individuals
Time start	Time stop													
Temperature	Pre-Dawn Dawn AM Noon PM Sunset Night													
Wind	Pre-Dawn Dawn AM Noon PM Sunset Night													
%Clouds	Pre-Dawn Dawn													

General Field Notes

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General Field Notes briefly report such items as rare sightings, unusual behaviors, or significant nesting records; or summaries of such items. Submit manuscripts to the appropriate state editor.

First, second, or third sightings of species in either state must be submitted to the appropriate Bird Records Committee prior to publication in The Chat.

A Recent South Carolina Specimen of the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*), and a Review of the Species' Regional Status

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The Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) breeds in the tropics and subtropics as far north as the northern Bahamas and the Dry Tortugas, Florida. In winter it stays in warm tropical or subtropical waters, usually within 100 km of nesting colonies (Chardine and Morris 1996). It is very rare in summer and autumn on the South Carolina coast, and most occurrences have been associated with tropical storms. The purpose of this paper is to report the first South Carolina specimen in 55 years and to review the current status of the species in the state.

On 7 September 2004, a Brown Noddy landed in the yard of Joan and Doug Corkern in a heavily wooded section of the historic area of Bluffton, Beaufort County. Its appearance coincided with the passage of Hurricane Frances, which came from the SSW, after passing over the Florida peninsula. The bird apparently was attracted to a 35 x 40 m open area, which consisted

of a swimming pool surrounded by lawns. It rested near the edge of the pool and flew up when Corkern tried to catch it. It then flew into a nearby wooded area, where Corkern found it dead the following morning.

The noddy was a male (left testis: 3.2 x 1.4 mm; right: 3.1 x 1.3 mm). It was in unworn Basic I plumage and its molt was completed, meaning that it was at least 11 months old (Chardine and Morris 1996). A bursa of Fabricius was not present. The bird had only a slight amount of subcutaneous fat in the lower abdomen. Its mass was 100.4 g. The normal range for males of this species is 151 to 221 g (Chardine and Morris 1996). Other measurements (mm) were: length of flattened wing: 261; wing span: 372; tail: 137; exposed culmen: length: 43.0, depth: 10.0, width: 9.4. The salt glands were not highly vascularized, and the left gland measured 13.2 mm x 5.0 mm. The specimen was prepared as a study skin, with right wing detached and spread. The partial skeleton and a tissue sample were also preserved (ChM 2005.2.001).

Table 1. Records of the Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) in South Carolina and adjacent waters.

Date	Location	Number	Observer	Reference
29-Jul-1926	Myrtle Beach (Horry Co.)	one collected (locality unknown)	T. M. Evans	Wayne and Sherman 1927
19-Sep-1926	Bull Island (Charleston Co.)	"several dead... and a few living"	E. M. Moore	Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949
18-Sep-1928	Porcher's Bluff (Charleston Co.)	one, released	B. R. Chamberlain	Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949
16-Jun-1929	Charleston Harbor	three	A. D. Cruickshank	Sprunt 1935
14-Aug-1939	Isle of Palms (Charleston Co.)	one, collected (ChM 39.204)	J. A. Bruce	Bruce 1941
9-Aug-1948	Pawley's Island (Georgetown Co.)	three	G. W. Sciple	Sciple 1951
28-Aug-1949	Offshore Isle of Palms	one	G. B. Rabb et al.	Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949
8-Sep-1950	Isle of Palms	one, collected (ChM 50.147)	E. M. Burton	Burton 1970
11-Oct-1983	75 km E of Charleston	one	J. C. Haney	Haney 1986
28-Aug-1988	Folly Island (Charleston Co.)	one	D. and P. Frey	LeGrand 1989
8-Sep-2004	Bluffton (Beaufort Co.)	one, salvaged (ChM 2005.2.001)	D. Corkern	Present report

History of Occurrences in South Carolina

With this report, South Carolina now has four specimens (three currently preserved) and seven sight reports, spanning the seasonal period of 16 June to 11 October (Table 1). All the collected specimens were found alive, stranded after the passage of hurricanes. The first record for South Carolina was based on a bird collected on 29 July 1926 at Myrtle Beach by County Agent T. M. Evans (Wayne and Sherman 1927). The specimen was given to Franklin Sherman of Clemson College, but cannot be located (S. A. Miller, pers. comm.). This first state record was related to the passage of a hurricane that reached the coast on 26 July 1926. This storm also resulted in the appearance of the state's first White-tailed Tropicbird, *Phaethon lepturus* (Wayne and Sherman 1927), as well as the second and third records, respectively, of the Sooty Tern, *Sterna fuscata*, and Bridled Tern, *Sterna anaethetus* (Dingle 1927).

In addition to the four specimen records (Table 1), details have been published, or are on file at public institutions, for seven sight reports:

- 1) Following a storm, "several dead birds and a few living ones" were found on Bull Island on 19 September 1926 by E. M. Moore (*in* Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949). This report is not cited in Sprunt and Chamberlain (1931), and no further information is on file in the Charleston Museum.

- 2) One was picked up by B. R. Chamberlain on 18 September 1928, at Porcher's Bluff, Mt. Pleasant. It was released after 8 hr (Sprunt and Chamberlain 1949).

- 3) Three were sitting together on a piece of driftwood at the entrance to Charleston Harbor on 16 June 1929 and were seen by A. D. Cruickshank, who was outbound on a steamship (Sprunt 1935). Brown Noddies are rarely seen from land during calm weather, and the sighting is anomalous in that it occurred during the nesting season, when most Brown Noddies should be on their breeding grounds on the southern Florida Keys and southward. This sighting was not reported by Sprunt and Chamberlain (1931), and apparently was communicated to Sprunt (1935) 4–5 years after the fact. However, the observer, Allen D. Cruickshank, was a reliable, well-known ornithologist, and the report was accepted by Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949).

- 4) Three were seen on 9 August 1948 on Pawley's Island (Sciple 1951). This report is unusual for the number seen, as well as the fact that their occurrence did not appear to be related to stormy weather. But the observer, George W. Sciple, had extensive experience with the species, published details of his sighting, and was known to be a reliable field ornithologist (Burleigh 1958).

- 5) One was seen off the Isle of Palms on 28 August 1949 by G. B. Rabb, J. E. Mosimann, and T. M. Uzzell, Jr. This report was first cited in Sprunt and Chamberlain (1949, addendum), who incorrectly stated that it was the fifth state record.

- 6) One was observed by Chris Haney (1986) 75 km east of Charleston on 11 October 1983, over water 31 m deep.

7) One was reported seen on 28 August 1988 on Folly Island during Tropical Storm Chris. No details are available, but the bird was seen at close range sitting and flying, and the report was accepted by LeGrand (1989).

A report of one on Port Royal Sound near Hilton Head Island was cited by LeGrand (1982a) but apparently not subsequently accepted (LeGrand 1982b), probably because the observer provided no details and could only identify the bird as *Anous* sp.

History of Occurrence in Adjacent States

In North Carolina, Lee (1995) referred to the species' occurrence during normal weather as accidental. Although it was first reported in 1945 (Appleberry 1951), no confirmed reports were available until 1979. In that year, as many as 18 were reported on the North Carolina coast after the passage of Hurricane David on 4–5 September (Fussell and Allen-Grimes 1980). These included three specimens, the first ones for the state (NCSM 7319, 7320, 7321). Only one inland report is available for North Carolina: three were seen at Lake Norman on 23 September 1989, after the passage of Hurricane Hugo (D. Wright *in* LeGrand 1990). Other than the relatively large numbers seen in North Carolina after Hurricane David in 1979, the Brown Noddy has been seen about as often in each of the two Carolinas. For example, Avendex (2004) lists 11 and 13 reports for South and North Carolina, respectively. For the two states combined, 78% of the 24 sightings took place during July–August.

In Georgia, Beaton et al. (2003) classified the species as “accidental” both offshore (two sight reports) and onshore (five reports, including two specimens). The first Georgia specimen was collected on 1 October 1950 by Ivan Tomkins (1950). It was mummified, and had been dead “some weeks”. A second specimen was found stranded on 22 June 1988 on Cumberland Island but it was not salvaged or photographed (Laura Feakes *in* Sewell 1996). A third bird was collected on Cumberland Island on 9 September 1965 (Beaton et al. 2003). A fourth Brown Noddy was found in Georgia in early September 2004 on the Jekyll Island Causeway (“Winging It” 16:10, 2004). The one inland (non-coastal) report from Georgia, 28 August 1949, Milledgeville, is not supported by details (Beaton et al. 2003).

Since about 1970 there has been a significant increase in pelagic birding, but still the Brown Noddy is rarely seen off the southeastern coast during periods of calm weather. For example, Haney (1983, 1986) conducted extensive surveys off the coast of Georgia and South Carolina in 1982–1985, and he recorded only one Brown Noddy (Table 1).

In summary, the status of the Brown Noddy in South Carolina has not changed much since 1988. Post and Gauthreaux (1989) state that it is a “very rare fall visitor on the coast, usually after tropical storms”. They mention nine records, two less than cited in this report. The Brown Noddy may now be classified as a very rare, usually storm-driven, onshore vagrant occurring from 29 July to 19 September. Offshore, and during periods of normal weather, it is a casual visitor (two reports, 16 June and 11 October).

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CBC Web Site
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BRIEFS FOR THE FILES

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(All dates Summer 2004, unless otherwise noted)

Briefs for the Files is a seasonal collection of uncommon-to-rare or unusual North and South Carolina bird sightings and events which do not necessarily require a more detailed Field Note or article. Reports of your sightings are due the 20th of the month after the end of the previous season.

Winter	December 1–February 28	due March 20
Spring	March 1–May 31	due June 20
Summer	June 1–July 31	due August 20
Fall	August 1–November 30	due December 20

Reports can be submitted in any format, but I prefer that you type them and list the sightings according to the birds in checklist order (not according to dates or locations). If you submit your report to me through e-mail, please type your report directly into the message or copy it from a word processing program directly into the message. You may also attach your file to the e-mail, but if you do, please let me know the program used and also send a second version saved as a text (.txt) file.

Suitable reports for the Briefs include any sightings you feel are unusual, rare, noteworthy, or just plain interesting to you in any way! It is my responsibility to decide which reports merit inclusion in the Briefs.

Please be sure to include details of any rare or hard-to-identify birds.

I rely in part on sightings reported in Carolinabirds. Please don't, however, rely on me to pick up your sightings from Carolinabirds. Instead, please also send your sightings directly to me as described above.

If I feel that your sighting warrants a Field Note, I will contact either you or the appropriate state Field Notes editor. You may, of course, submit your Field Note directly to the editor without going through me.

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK: The presence of this species in south-coastal South Carolina continued this summer. Up to 22 were present at Donnelley WMA during the summer, at least 12 were at Savannah NWR in early June (*fide* Pat Metz), and one was at Brays Is., Beaufort 9–14 July (*fide* Dennis Forsythe). In North Carolina, a flock of eight was at L. Medcalf, Sunset Beach 14 June–9 July, but it was felt that these birds were from a

development in Myrtle Beach, SC that has lost some before (Mary McDavit).

SNOW GOOSE: One, possibly injured, lingered at Pea Is. NWR, NC until at least 6 June (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

MUTE SWAN: One at Pea Is. NWR, NC 27 July (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) added to the growing number of reports of this species from that area.

RING-NECKED DUCK: Males of this species were found summering in e. Franklin County, NC 5 June (Ricky Davis) and at the Futch Game Land Impoundment, Tyrrell County, NC 17 July (Jeff Lewis).

LESSER SCAUP: One was found during the summer at L. James, NC 8 July (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER: Always noteworthy in the breeding season, lingering/summering Red-breasteds included five at Oregon Inlet, NC 6 June (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) and one apparently injured male at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 3–31 July (Dwayne Martin).

COMMON LOON: This summer's reports of lingering or summering Commons involved one in alternate plumage on Bass Lake, Blowing Rock, NC 5 June (Ann & Chester Robertson), one in basic plumage on L. Junaluska, Haywood County, NC 20 June (Jonathan Mays), three on L. James, NC 8 July (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one at C. Hatteras, NC 17 July (Scott Baron, Elisa Enders), and one at Ocracoke Inlet, NC 18 July (Baron, Enders).

PIED-BILLED GREBE: A pair with young was a locally good summer sighting at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 24 July (Eric Dean, Gene Howe).

HORNED GREBE: A possibly injured Horned Grebe was at Oregon Inlet, NC 6 June, as noted by Russ & Patricia Tyndall.

FEA'S PETREL: This species has become annual off the Outer Banks the last several years. This summer, an excellent total of three was had off Oregon Inlet 4 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MANX SHEARWATER: Manx Shearwaters are uncommon but regular spring migrants off our coast. This summer's early trips produced singles off Hatteras, NC 5 & 6 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

AUDUBON'S SHEARWATER: The peak count noted this season was the 128 off Hatteras, NC 5 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Rare from shore was an exhausted individual near Beaufort, NC 26 July (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

WHITE-FACED STORM-PETREL: Rather early in the season was one seen by a charter boat captain off of Oregon Inlet, NC in late June (*fide* Brian Patteson).

LEACH'S STORM-PETREL: The peak total reported this season was a respectable 20 off of Manteo, NC 1 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL: The best count of this species was the 23 off Manteo, NC 1 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

RED-BILLED TROPICBIRD: The number of reports of this species from waters off the Outer Banks continues to accumulate. This summer, a subadult was off Oregon Inlet, NC 1 June, and an immature was found off Hatteras, NC 5 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.).

MASKED BOOBY: Always exciting finds in our waters, an immature was off Hatteras, NC 6 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.) and a subadult was seen from a cruise liner off C. Hatteras 2 July (Marshall Iliff).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN: Good numbers continued to be found in south-coastal South Carolina as evidenced by the 128 at Bear Is. WMA 2 July (Lloyd Moon).

ANHINGA: One was locally unusual at a small lake in n. Lancaster County, SC during July (Lisa Gaffney, *fide* Larry Barden).

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD: This summer's reports included an immature heading westward at Ft. Macon, NC 11 June (Randy Newman), an adult male flying west at Frisco, NC 14 June (Mike Overton), and a juvenile present at Falls Lake, NC 17–18 July (Brian Bockhahn, Russ & Patricia Tyndall et al.). The latter bird, only about the third inland report for that state, was truly a surprise, as there was no previous storm activity to bring it that far inland. In South Carolina, one was noted s. of Myrtle Beach 17 July by Scott Jennex.

GREAT BLUE HERON: This species continues to increase as a breeder in the Piedmont of the Carolinas. One of the largest inland heronries of Great Blues was at the Ellerbe Creek area of Falls Lake, NC with at least 40 nests 10 June (Josh Rose).

SNOWY EGRET: Unexplainable was one offshore off Manteo, NC 1 June (Brian Patteson, Inc.). Also one at Lookout Shoals L., NC 26 June (*fide* Dwayne Martin) was locally uncommon as a post-breeding wanderer that far inland.

TRICOLORED HERON: Four post-breeding wanderers provided a locally good count near Scotland Neck, NC 27 July (Russ & Patricia Tyndall).

REDDISH EGRET: Always noteworthy, this summer's sightings included one at the n. end of Hilton Head Is., SC in early July (*fide* Taylor Piephoff), one near Emerald Isle, NC 3 July (Dave Lenat), one at Huntington Beach St. Pk., SC 6 July (Stephen Thomas), and two at Portsmouth Is., NC 24 July (John Fussell et al.).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON: One was a good find in the mountains in Henderson County, NC 10–27 July (Marilyn Westphal, Wayne Forsythe).

ROSEATE SPOONBILL: This summer's sightings involved five at Bear Is. WMA, SC 3 July (Kathleen O'Grady, Andrea Ceselski), one at Sunset Beach, NC 22 July (Joe Gagliano, *fide* Taylor Piephoff), and one at Parris Is., Beaufort, SC 25 July (Marvin Bouknight).

WOOD STORK: Three along the Lumber River near the Long Branch area of Columbus County, NC 21–28 July (Charles Gause, Neill Lee) were locally good finds.

OSPREY: One, probably a non-breeding wanderer, was seen hovering over Hemphill Bald, Haywood County, NC 20 July and was unusual for the mountains in summer (Jonathan Mays).

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: One was photographed sitting in an Osprey nest at Orton Pond, Brunswick County, NC 17 June (Rex Padgett, *fide* Susan

Campbell). As this species usually uses nests up in big trees, this individual was most likely using the nest as a roosting site.

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Up to three adults and two juveniles were found in nw. Greensboro, NC 29 July until mid-August (Scott DePue, Henry Link, Melissa Whitmire, sev. obs.). These birds were obviously post-breeding wanderers, but since the young were still being fed by the parents, they could have nested not too far away. These provided probably the first Guilford County records for the species.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK: Always noteworthy in the breeding season, a nest with three fledglings was a good find at Millers Creek, Wilkes County, NC in early July (Ken Crouse, *fide* Russ Tyndall).

GOLDEN EAGLE: There were three reports of this rare summer visitor. One was over Morganton, NC in June (*fide* Dwayne Martin), one was over Bakers Mt. Park, NC 4 July (John Sutton), and one was at the McDowell Prairie, Mecklenburg County, NC 16 July (*fide* Taylor Piephoff).

MERLIN: One found at the Santee R., SC delta 24 July (Dennis Forsythe et al.) was extremely early for a fall migrant, thus was probably a very unusual non-breeding wanderer.

AMERICAN COOT: This species is an infrequent breeder in the Carolinas. This summer one was at Woodlake, Moore County, NC 25–27 June (Russ & Patricia Tyndall), and a brood was seen at the Goldsboro, NC WTP 24 July (Eric Dean, Gene Howe).

SANDHILL CRANE: A rare summer occurrence of Sandhill Crane involved one flying over Hooper Lane, Henderson County, NC 6 July, as noted by Danny Swicegood.

BLACK-NECKED STILT: One found offshore out of Oregon Inlet, NC 4 June (Brian Patteson Inc.) was very unusual and unexpected, providing a first pelagic report for the species in the Carolinas. Also very rare was the stilt found inland in e. Franklin County, NC 5 June (Ricky Davis). There are only a handful of truly inland reports for this species.

UPLAND SANDPIPER: The only early fall migrants of this species reported included four at North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 18 July (John Fussell), three at the Cherry Hospital, Wayne County, NC grounds 24 July (Eric Dean, Gene Howe), and three again at North River Farms, NC 25 July (Fussell, Jack Fennell).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW: One was a good find at the n. end of Portsmouth Is., NC 24 July (John Fussell et al.).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: One was a locally uncommon migrant at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 24 July, as noted by Ramona Snavelly and Linda Davis.

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER: Three at a Winston-Salem, NC WTP 24–31 July (Ramona Snavelly et al.) provided about the third Forsyth County report for that species.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: One was seen in sw. Croatan Nat. Forest, Carteret County, NC 22 June (John Fussell). This species is rarely found in the nesting season, and once again no breeding evidence was noted.

LAUGHING GULL: Uncommon inland summer visitors included two at L. Murray, SC 1 June (Mike Turner) and one at L. Hickory, NC 13 June (Dwayne Martin, Monroe Pannell).

HERRING GULL: One was quite unusual inland at L. Murray, SC 1 June, as noted by Mike Turner.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL: Rare summering Lessers included a second-year bird at C. Hatteras, NC 6 June (Russ & Patricia Tyndall) and a third-year bird at Nags Head, NC 10 July (Les Willis).

GLAUCOUS GULL: Very unusual was the presence of a second-winter Glaucous on an island in the Cape Fear River near Southport, NC 24–25 June (Walker Golder, Chris Canfield). Individuals of this species that winter in the Carolinas are usually gone by April.

ROSEATE TERN: Only one was reported this summer, that being at C. Hatteras point 17 July (Scott Baron, Elisa Enders). Sightings of this species in the Carolinas have been few and far between the last several years.

ARCTIC TERN: Very rare and unusual was one onshore at Ft. Macon, NC 5 June (Al Gamache). This well-described bird was noted sitting on the beach, affording a good opportunity for study.

FORSTER'S TERN: Uncommon inland occurrences included two at Santee NWR, SC 24 July (Mike Turner) and one at L. Hickory, NC 29 July (Dwayne Martin).

BLACK TERN: Two were good finds in the mountains near the French Broad R., Henderson County, NC 31 July (Wayne Forsythe).

WHITE-WINGED DOVE: One was in a Beaufort, NC neighborhood 2 June, as noted by Rich & Susan Boyd. This is the same area where individuals of this species have been observed irregularly over the last several years.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO: There were sightings of this cuckoo in eastern North Carolina again this year. Single birds were near Washington 4 June (Mark Johns) and near Catfish Lake, Croatan Nat. Forest 9 June (John Fussell). It could not be determined if these were anything more than just late migrants.

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: One was singing along Shimpock Rd., Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, NC 15 & 28 June (John Buckman). This is an area that has hosted a localized summering population for several years.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER: Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, now annually reported in the Carolinas, were found several times this season. One was along Southpoint Rd, Ocracoke, NC 1 June (Lindsey Nester, *vide* Elizabeth Hanrahan), one was at the past breeding location s. of Monroe, NC 14 June (Anne Olsen), one was at the Orangeburg, SC sod farm 23 July (Bob Maxwell, Billy Fuller), and a family group of five was present w. of Saluda, SC in Edgefield County 24–30 July (Jason Giovannone, Robin Carter, Caroline Eastman, Donna Slyce, Mac Sharpe, *sev. obs.*). This group apparently consisted of several young birds with short tails and probably nested not too far away.

VEERY: Very early migrants involved one seen and heard singing in a yard in Beaufort, SC 22–23 July (Rich & Susan Boyd) and one heard in the pre-dawn at Rocky Mount, NC 28 July (Ricky Davis).

HERMIT THRUSH: Another summer-season bird was heard singing at Grandfather Mt., NC 17 July (Chris Wilson). This species seems to be slowly increasing as a summer bird of the higher mountains of North Carolina.

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER: Rare summer sightings of this warbler in North Carolina occurred again this year. Single adult males were noted at Mt. Mitchell 19–22 June (Susan Campbell) and at Clingman's Dome 4 July (Mike Tove). Females were not noted, so these birds could easily have represented non-breeding lingerers. Nesting by this species in the state has not been documented, and any further sightings should be noted.

CERULEAN WARBLER: A singing male was found at the coast in Southern Shores, NC 19 July (Jeff Lewis). Even though this species is one of our earliest fall migrants, this individual was still very early.

WORM-EATING WARBLER: One heard at the Congaree Nat. Pk., Richland County, SC 12 June (Robin Carter) was considered to be unusual in the breeding season for that central South Carolina location.

LARK SPARROW: A pair, obviously territorial, was observed at Camp Mackall, Scotland County, NC 5 June (Harry LeGrand). This species has been a very localized summer resident in the Sandhills area of that state.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW: One was very unusual in that it spent the entire summer in Beaufort, NC (Rich & Susan Boyd). The non-breeding lingerer was present at least from 15 June until 2 August.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW: Even rarer as a summer visitor was the adult White-crowned Sparrow seen at an Emerald Isle, NC feeder 29 June (Sally Carter, John Voigt).

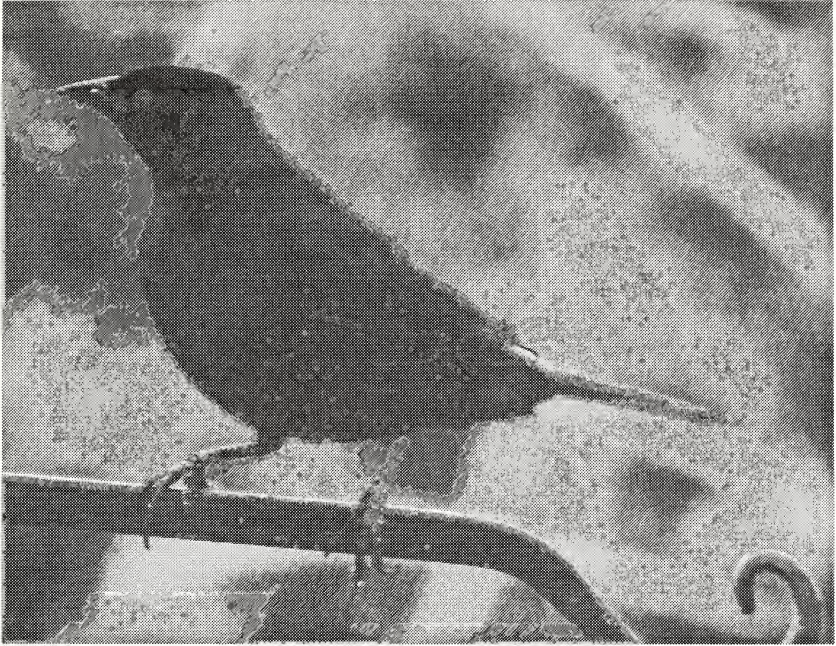
DICKCISSEL: This summer's reports involved two territorial pairs that probably nested in e. Franklin County, NC 5 June (Ricky Davis), up to four birds at their usual summer location in Gaston County, NC 18 June–18 July (Simon Thompson, Jo Ann Martin, John Buckman), and a singing male near North River Farms, Carteret County, NC 11 & 25 July (John Fussell, Jack Fennell). The latter bird provided a first breeding-season report for that county.

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: An adult male Yellow-headed Blackbird was a good find at a feeder near Back Creek, Carteret County, NC 21 July (Bill Simpson, *vide* John Fussell). This species is normally a fall-to-spring visitor in the Carolinas, thus a summer occurrence is quite unusual.

SHINY COWBIRD: Only one was reported from the Carolinas this summer; that being a male at Pea Is. NWR, NC 23 July on into August (John Fussell et al., *sev. obs.*).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE: Locally unusual summer Baltimore Orioles included three males singing at Riverbend Park, Catawba County, NC 5 June (Dwayne Martin) and one male along Shimpock Rd., Coddle Creek Res., Cabarrus County, NC 15 June (John Buckman).

RED CROSSBILL: Sightings of this species in the Carolinas are always noteworthy. An excellent total of 100 was seen at Black Balsam along the Blue Ridge Parkway, Haywood County, NC 5 June (Jeff Catlin, *fide* Wayne Forsythe), providing an impressive count for this species.



Shiny Cowbird at Pea Island NWR, 29 July 2004. Photo by Steve Shultz

CBC Rare Bird Alert
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